

Chapter 621

The Two-Faced Woman

As the cool breeze of the ocean whipped around them, Yang Chen's words were like a warm breeze, wrapping Zhenxiu in a blanket of warmth and security.

After a period of silence, Yang Chen released Zhenxiu who was in his embrace, and reached out and ran one of his hands through her soft curls.

The orange rays from the streetlamps on the bridge bled all around them and illuminated their faces. Zhenxiu's angelic features carried a tinge of childishness when she pouted her lips.

"First you made me feel absolutely miserable. Now you're doing the opposite. Brother Yang, are you deliberately showing off in order to impress me?" she asked in a joking manner.

Yang Chen's lips twitched. "Do you even have anything positive to say to me in that big head of yours? For example, a brother should do his best to correct his little sister's attitude towards life."

Zhenxiu chewed on her bottom lip, mulling something over in her mind. Then, without any warning whatsoever, she stood on her tiptoes and gave Yang Chen a peck on the lips!

Her actions caught Yang Chen off guard. And it left as soon as it came, leaving him feeling cold. All he felt were soft, petal-like lips applying pressure on his. Yang Chen was shocked to his core rendering him useless.

Zhenxiu blushed uncontrollably. Her cheeks were unnaturally warm despite the cool breeze around her. In all the years of her life, this was her first time doing something as brazen as taking the initiative to kiss a man.

"Don't misinterpret that kiss!" squawked Zhenxiu.

In an attempt to cover up her awkwardness and embarrassment, Zhenxiu raised her head to speak but was betrayed by her reddened cheeks.

"That was merely a platonic kiss from a sister to her brother. Nothing else to it!" said Zhenxiu indignantly.

Yang Chen sighed inwardly. Zhenxiu's feelings were as clear as day despite her efforts to conceal them. Every word she spoke only further confirmed her feelings for him.

Yang Chen's personal life was already a tangled mess. Furthermore, he had always viewed Zhenxiu as a sister figure in his life and treated her like family. So how could he then develop any romantic feelings for her?

When Zhenxiu was first welcomed into the family, Lin Ruoxi already had her apprehensions about it. If he really went and did something absurd like form a romantic relationship with Zhenxiu, what would Lin Ruoxi think? Would she view him as nothing less than a predator that would never let go of anything in its grasp?

Not to mention if he acknowledged Zhenxiu's feelings, Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua's opinions of him would only be further cemented.

Zhenxiu was a sensible girl. She knew the predicament that Yang Chen was in, but sometimes the human emotion gets in the way of logic and rational thinking.

As these thoughts raced across his mind, Yang Chen settled on the most neutral course of action by laughing lightly and letting the conversation pass.

"We should get a move on and go back home for dinner. I'm getting hungry. If we don't rush home, we'll be left with nothing but scraps," he forced out. Yang Chen decided to pretend as if nothing had happened.

Zhenxiu was flooded with a sense of relief at Yang Chen's words but deep inside her, there lingered a sense of disappointment. However, this was neither the time nor place to talk about it so she hummed in acknowledgement and followed him.

After a twenty-minute long ride in awkward silence, they finally reached home.

Just as they were walking to the front door, Yang Chen halted in his steps. He proceeded to smack his forehead, and exclaim loudly, "Damn it!"

This sudden outburst from Yang Chen scared Zhenxiu out of her skin. Curious, she asked, "Brother Yang, are you okay? Did something happen?"

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. When he picked up Zhenxiu, he gave Guo Xuehua a call and had asked Rose to check on Jiao Yanyan's background. But how in the world did he forget to send Lin Ruoxi the text she asked for?!

Yang Chen was doomed this time. Lin Ruoxi would definitely jump to the conclusion that he had done it on purpose to drive her insane.

Everyone makes mistakes. But this slip-up was an especially costly one which filled him with dread and anxiety.

Sighing, he shook his head at Zhenxiu to indicate that everything was fine. He then opened the door and entered.

Inside, Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma were seated on the sofa. The television was off, so it was clear that they had been waiting for Yang Chen and Zhenxiu's arrival.

Seeing Zhenxiu enter helped the two women visibly relax. It was as if a great burden had been lifted off their shoulders. Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma quickly prepared their dinner. At the sight of the still piping hot meal, Yang Chen allowed himself to relax.

During dinner, Zhenxiu was bombarded with a barrage of questions from the concerned Guo Xuehua as to why her normally bright and twinkling eyes were tinted in red.

Yang Chen refrained from telling the true events that had transpired between them earlier in the evening in order to avoid shocking the two elderly women. So he decided to spin a fabricated tale to them instead. Whether the two women believed his story was another matter altogether.

After Zhenxiu excused herself to her room, Guo Xuehua rushed to Yang Chen's side and whispered to him, "Son, did you bully Zhenxiu?"

Yang Chen was snapped out of his thoughts and said, "Why would I bully her?" As soon as the words left his mouth, guilt seeped into his heart. *?I was doing her good by throwing her to the sea, wasn't I??* he thought.

Guo Xuehua glared at him for a moment and said solemnly, "The Starmoon Group in Korea desperately want Zhenxiu to return to their clan. Even though Zhenxiu doesn't want to return for now, there is no guarantee that she will stay with us forever given that her real family is there. You should take advantage of the time that she has with our family while you still can and treat her well. Watch yourself, boy. If find out that you are mistreating Zhenxiu in any way, I will not hesitate to side with Lin Ruoxi against you!"

The hair on Yang Chen's neck stood on end when he heard the threats coming out from his mother's mouth. Was this any way to treat your son? He smiled flatly and said, "Alright, alright, I get it. But I honestly didn't bully Zhenxiu. I have much better things to do."

Guo Xuehua nodded. It was clear that she knew something, but refrained from asking any further questions.

Yang Chen dragged his lifeless body back to his room. He proceeded to enter the bathroom and took a shower. After a fresh change of clothes, he was ready to hit the hay when a knock sounded at his door.

Judging from the rhythm of the knocking, Yang Chen could tell that Lin Ruoxi had returned home. After all, only this woman could knock on doors with such levity.

He was helpless. Yang Chen knew that he'd have to deal with this matter one way or another. He made his way to the door and opened it. "My dear wife, you've come back home! Work must've been tough. Is there something you'd like to discuss with me?" he asked.

Lin Ruoxi dragged her fingers through her long and silky hair. She was dressed in Western styled clothing. Her weary face carried an indifferent expression but her eyes that were like a pair of black obsidian were firmly fixed on Yang Chen.

"Do you realise how childish you're acting?" Those were the first words that came out of her mouth.

Yang Chen's face was flushed with humiliation but he couldn't do anything about it. "Look... just... Please just listen to what I have to say. Today has been a very long day for me. I couldn't help it but it slipped my mind—"

"It slipped your mind? Oh, so it's been a long day for you? And yet you still had the time to call home but couldn't even squeeze out a few minutes in your busy schedule to send me a text. I'm not asking for much here. Just a simple 'she's safe' would have sufficed? You're seriously trying to tell me that you couldn't even find enough time to do that?" Lin Ruoxiao fired back coolly.

Yang Chen had no words for that. He had dug his own grave by calling back home to ask for Zhenxiu but neglected telling his family about Zhenxiu's condition.

Yang Chen had nothing else to say. He was indeed at fault. He made a call to her to ask about Zhenxiu, but had forgotten to give her the update that she asked for.

“Do you even know how anxious I felt throughout my meeting? I kept waiting for your text to the point where I even left my phone on the conference table and kept checking it every other minute,” said Lin Ruoxi. “You couldn’t even be bothered to send me a short text just to let me know that everything was going alright.”

He ducked his head down, too afraid to meet her gaze. Yang Chen laughed sheepishly, saying, “Well... if you were as concerned as you say you were, you could’ve just called me. I genuinely forgot to send you a text—that’s it.”

Lin Ruoxi laughed and said, “Call you? How was I supposed to know if you were ignoring me on purpose?”

“You’re wrong.” Yang Chen insisted and tried to explain himself. “I did not mean for this to offend you. Ruoxi, you have to believe me. I really forgot.”

She stared intently at his face for a while, then turned her back on him and made her way back to her own room. “Forget it. If that’s what you think, then it has nothing to do with me. I’m tired. I’m going back to get some rest.”

Yang Chen furrowed his eyebrows in frustration. This incident was definitely going to strain their already-rocky relationship.

Lin Ruoxi halted in her footsteps. Softly, she said, “I forgot to mention this, but because of your ineptitude, Qianni is in quite the terrible situation. If you can’t give your women the good lives they deserve, then you should start pulling yourself together.”

“What happened to Qianni?” Yang Chen asked hurriedly.

“What happened?” she asked incredulously. She turned her head back and said, “Do you really think that you’re a god just because others refer to you as one? Do you think that everyone else thinks the way you do? I don’t even know where to begin with you. First, you let Mom and Aunt Ma meet each other, without informing Aunt Ma about our marriage beforehand. You even dragged Mom into this by hiding it from me...”

“Yo—you knew all along?” Yang Chen asked, taken aback from her words.

“How could I not know? Did you really think that you could sweep this under the rug? I even know that Aunt Ma works at a restaurant, and she gave you a heavy scolding the other day. Qianni was so worried that she was distracted at work.”

Lin Ruoxi continued, “To be honest, whether or not you hide things from me doesn’t make a difference to me. However, I highly suggest that you quit the path you’re on because Aunt Ma will never approve of you. After all the pain and hardships you’ve put Qianni through, you’re both better off apart.”

Yang Chen frowned, and could only come up with a question. “How did you manage to find out about the day I brought my mother to meet them both? Did Mom tell you that?”

Lin Ruoxi snorted coldly. “As if! Your loving mother dotes on her darling son so much. She would never tell me such things.”

“Was it Qianni who told you about this?” he said abruptly, but cut himself off. “No way, Qianni would never mention this to anyone.”

Lin Ruoxi seemed to realise something and said, “Does it really matter who told me about this? Yang Chen, what is going on in that thick head of yours?!”

Yang Chen drew in a sharp breath and said solemnly, “Only Qianni and I, plus Mother and Aunt knew about this. There was no way any of us would have told you. Surely you understand the point that I’m trying to make.”

Lin Ruoxi’s face paled with anger, to the point where she shivered. “Are you trying to imply tha—that I’ve been watching you?”

Yang Chen shook his head. “I would have sensed it if there was any surveillance on me. But monitoring Qianni is quite a bit easier. When Qianni and I went to the Li clan in Hong Kong for a business negotiation, wasn’t it all part of your plan? I know that it definitely wasn’t difficult for you to pull off something like that. Had you not watched Qianni secretly, why would you be informed about what had happened on that day?”

“Do you really think that I would do that?” Lin Ruoxi widened her red eyes in disbelief.

“Ruoxi, I don’t fault you for your actions. I just wish that you would stop treating Qianni as the enemy. Mingyu, An Xin and the others are not your enemy as well. Stop treating this like some sort of business rivalry. If Qianni found out about your actions, how do you think she would feel?”

“How would she feel? Sure, she would feel so manipulated. Wouldn’t you feel the same? After finding out that I’m so manipulative and malicious, a two-faced woman, don’t you feel the same?”

Yang Chen shook his head. “I don’t know. Everything’s such a mess right now.”

She chewed on her bottom lip, turned her head back and subconsciously wiped the tears from her eyes before heading straight back to her room.

After Lin Ruoxi shut the door, Yang Chen raised his head and exhaled through his mouth.

The thought of Qianni’s sorrowful expression at work made it difficult for Yang Chen to calm down. After everything that has happened, he still have yet to come up with a solution.

Lin Ruoxi’s tone made him feel more helpless than he already was. He had no clue how he could fix all the misunderstanding’s between them.

With his mind now flooded with thoughts, Yang Chen lost his mood to sleep. He went downstairs as he decided to grab a bottle of red wine, and drink some before heading back to his bed.

When he got to the kitchen, Wang Ma was just cleaning up and preparing some food for tomorrow’s breakfast. At the sight of Yang Chen, she seemed to be reminded of something. She said hesitatingly, “Young Master, can I ask you a question?”

Yang Chen nodded, asking, "What is it, Wang Ma?"

Wang Ma smiled and said, "Young Master, I've been really curious about this for a while now. I would like to know if you have some sort of relationship with Miss Mo?"

Yang Chen was a little stunned. 'Miss Mo' was referring Mo Qianni. *How does Wang Ma know??* he thought.

"Why would you ask, Wang Ma?" asked Yang Chen, frowning.

"Sigh... I didn't know this in the beginning. But this morning, Miss Mo's mother called our house to ask look for Miss Ruoxi. Miss was at work, so I asked if she wanted Miss' personal contact instead..."

"I was curious as to why she would call out of the blue given that we've lost touch over the years. Who knew that Sister Ma said stuff like she was 'feel sorry to Boss Lin' and 'guilty to Old CEO', so I drew up some conclusions on my own..."

Yang Chen was astonished while his body was riddled with anxiety. "Wang Ma, ar—are you saying that Aunt Ma... called Ruoxi?"

Wang Ma nodded. "I bet she did since she asked me for her number. What's the matter?" she asked worriedly.

Yang Chen tipped his head upwards and let a out a heavy sigh. He finally understood why Lin Ruoxi knew everything that had happened on that fateful day and why Lin Ruoxi wore that cold face of fury when he suggested that she was monitoring Mo Qianni.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly, unable to speak a single word.

Chapter 622

Much Ado About Nothing

Since Yang Chen had discovered that he was wrong to accuse Lin Ruoxi of monitoring him, he had no intention of being a coward and not apologizing to her. However, Lin Ruoxi might still be fuming in anger over what he had said. Nevertheless, it was only right for him to do so. In his rush to make things right with her, Yang Chen had forgotten about the red wine and hurried upstairs where he stopped in front of the door of Lin Ruoxi's room.

Yang Chen carefully went over the apology in his mind. When he was fully satisfied, he cautiously knocked on the door hoping for a reply.

There was no movement that could be heard and the room was seemingly empty but Yang Chen could sense that Lin Ruoxi was still in her room.

Yang Chen felt utterly helpless. Even though he had very little shame, he wasn't completely oblivious to the gravity of the situation. Yang Chen knew that if he were to forcefully barge into Lin Ruoxi's room, she would fly into another fit of rage. It wouldn't matter by then if his intentions were right or wrong.

This left Yang Chen with no choice but to continue standing at her doorway. "Ruoxi, I know I am in the wrong for doubting you. Please, just try and be the bigger person and forgive me this time. I won't ever doubt you without finding out the truth first. I promise," he apologized.

Silence emanated from the room. Yang Chen could only stand in her doorway and plead for his forgiveness.

He stood there quietly and patiently waiting for a response. But a couple minutes went by and there was still no response. It was clear to him that she had no intention of speaking to him. Yang Chen was left with no choice but to summon every ounce of his strength to walk himself back to his room, wine forgotten and emotionally drained.

Yang Chen's mind was in a state of utter chaos. He was filled with the thoughts of the unresolved issues he had with Mo Qianni, and the fact that he had angered Lin Ruoxi to the point where she couldn't even be bothered to respond to his pleas. He felt like a failure which had no hope of salvation.

He spent the whole night tossing and turning, wondering how to go about the matter of getting Lin Ruoxi's forgiveness. The very next morning, Yang Chen dragged his unwilling body out of bed and headed down stairs. He was greeted with the sight of Lin Ruoxi having breakfast with Zhenxiu.

Just as Yang Chen thought of approaching her, he saw a flash of annoyance and hatred in her eyes. Lin Ruoxi set down her chopsticks, stiffly stood up and said to Wang Ma who was just coming out of the kitchen, "Wang Ma, I've already had my fill of breakfast. I'm heading out to work now."

Wang Ma, disappointed with her, said "But Miss Ruoxi, you ate so little this morning."

"I'm not that hungry," said Lin Ruoxi offhandedly. She took her handbag and left without another word.

Yang Chen was left standing at the door that Lin Ruoxi had left from. He had to swallow his well crafted apology back to the pits of his stomach. The fact that Ruoxi's hatred for him had reached a point where she wouldn't even give him an opportunity to speak up for himself, left Yang Chen in a state of distress.

Zhenxiu's doe-eyed gaze fixed itself on Yang Chen's back and said, "Brother Yang, have you done something to stir up Sister Ruoxi's wrath again? She looks angrier than ever before."

Yang Chen mutely glanced at Zhenxiu. *Can I blame her for being mad at me? In any case, I used to trust her but I slipped up this time and made the mistake of immediately doubting her character,* he thought.

Unfortunately, regret was a disease with no cure. If such a cure existed, Yang Chen would have sacrificed his entire being for a chance to obtain that cure.

Wang Ma pursed her lips and shook her head, but chose to remain silent. She went to serve a bowl of millet gruel to Yang Chen but had given him a look that conveyed her inner thoughts—*This is your mess, clean it up.*

Yang Chen finished the rest of his breakfast in a daze and offered to send Zhenxiu to school. However, she turned him down, stating, "I don't feel like seeing Brother Yang's gloomy face." this left Yang Chen more confused—emotionally speaking—than ever before.

With no one to take pity on his plight, Yang Chen had no choice but to go to work. Speaking of work, he hadn't been to his office for a few days. Ever since the Star of Yu Lei ended, the company's reputation

had improved greatly and the rest of the subsequent projects were coming along nicely. With Wang Jie and Zhao Teng running everything, Yang Zhen's work as the director was quite easy.

When Yang Chen arrived at the office, he discovered that An Xin had come back to work as usual. Her petite body was clad in a pale yellow pleated dress that showed off her bare shoulders and her silky black locks neatly tucked behind the ears. The fresh yet elegant look she sported elevated her already-marvellous beauty to an ethereal-like quality, gently surprising him.

Seated on Yang Chen's leather chair, An Xin was pouring over the documents on the office table. Compared to Yang Chen's slovenly work ethic, An Xin—who had been under positive influences since a young age—was more suited to be the director than he was.

Upon seeing Yang Chen enter the office, An Xin raised her head and smiled sweetly at him. "Dear, you're late for work today."

"Be glad I decided to show up," said Yang Chen while smirking. He moved forward, closing the distance between him and An Xin's pale cheeks. "I had no idea that my dear An Xin had such a delicate side to her. With the way things are going, my little vixen might soon turn into a fairy," he tutted.

An Xin pouted, "I've been posing as a vixen for so long that I've nearly turned into one myself. So in order to make the people around you approve of me, from this day onwards, I'm going to pay extra attention to my external appearance."

Her words seemed petty in nature, but to Yang Chen, it was rather tear-jerking.

Previously, they had a chance encounter with Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma. Even Lin Ruoxin had also come in between their bouts of passion. Even though no one was really against An Xin, it did not mean that they supported her whole-heartedly either.

An Xin was fated to be the third party in the relationship no matter what. This feeling of helplessness had caused her to stop coming to work or to meet Yang Chen.

As of now, An Xin had returned to work a changed woman. She changed her outlook, hoping that this fresh look of hers would be more accepted by the others.

Yang Chen reached out to pinch her soft cheeks, and said, "I don't care whether you're a vixen or a fairy. I like you no matter what."

An Xin smiled sweetly, then pointed at the stack of documents in her hand. "While you were away, I started going through the promotion plans. The plans are about Hui Lin's upcoming album release and her concert. Do you want to go through it together?"

"Hui Lin's concert?" Yang Chen never thought that Hui Lin would have gotten her own concert so quickly. *Wow. Things are progressing very fast for her, aren't they?* he thought.

An Xin nodded thoughtfully and continued, "Hui Lin's popularity may not be as high as some of the other old-timers, but in terms of strength she's definitely winning. Furthermore, she has Christen's support. It helps that her mysterious background piques the curiosity of the general public. At the rate of her growing success, a concert would definitely not be a problem for her. Hui Lin is also a Beijing local, so organising her own concert there would definitely be a success."

Yang Chen smiled politely at her words. What An Xin said about Hui Lin's background being mysterious had to be Abbess Yun Miao's doing.

The Lin clan might not be as influential as the four major clans, but they still came from official backgrounds. If any children from the Lin clan entered the entertainment industry, it would definitely be harmful to the country's stoic image.

Because of this, even the media and the paparazzi were hesitant to dig up Hui Lin's real backstory lest they be targeted by the government and hunted down. However, there were still some ignorant fools who attempted to uncover details about her past but were quickly stopped in their tracks.

This was also one of the main reasons why Abbess Yun Miao was against her granddaughter choosing the life of an entertainer. But even though she might seem cold and downright cruel, the truth was that she was a huge softie when it came to Hui Lin. When Hui Lin started showing off her dulcet tones, Abbess Yun Miao could do little but silently help her overcome the obstacles in her career.

Now Yang Chen had lost the mood to go through the plans, he lazily made his way to the sofa instead and draped himself over it. "Just do as you see fit. If it's good enough for you, it's good enough for me. I don't know the first thing when it comes to these kinds of operations anyway."

An Xin picked out an unusual strain in Yang Chen's voice then cautiously asked him, "Hubby... is there something weighing on your mind?"

He smiled sheepishly. "You could tell just from that?"

"Yang Chen, you absolutely lifeless. It's my first time seeing you in such a pitiful state," she said, worried about him.

Yang Chen didn't have anything to hide from her. And it wouldn't hurt for a second opinion on the matter. So, he recounted the entire fiasco about Mo Qianni and Lin Ruoxi. When he was done, he turned to An Xin and said dejectedly, "Sweetheart, as a woman, please tell me what should be done to let my mother-in-law approve of me being together with Qianni. And what do I do to go about getting forgiveness from Ruoxi."

An Xin stared dumbly at Yang Chen. She had no idea that such a simple question would have opened the floodgates to Yang Chen's problems.

"After listening to your troubles... my own problems pale in comparison," An Xin said solemnly. "I may be a woman, but I'm not a mother—so I can't fully comprehend that aunt's actions. I believe that only a mother would understand another mother's emotions."

Yang Chen stayed silent. This was one of the major obstacles in his way of solving this problem. He was in no position to sway Ma Guifang.

"However," An Xin pursed her lips and said, "Boss Lin's anger towards you can easily be abated. I don't peg her as the petty type."

An Xin had had many interactions with Lin Ruoxi before, so when she said that, Yang Chen's spirits were instantly lifted.

An Xin mulled it over, then said, "I think that the best way to get Sister Ruoxi to forgive you, would be by showing her your sincerity."

Yang Chen's brain suddenly cleared. *That's it! How could I possibly have forgotten since the beginning, Tang Wan had asked to me to get to know Ruoxi's past better?* All of his personal problems had piled up so the thought never occurred to him. Once An Xin had mentioned it, Yang Chen finally found the piece of the puzzle that he had been looking for.

He sat up without warning to fish out his smartphone and called the house phone.

The person on the other end of the receiver happened to be Wang Ma. IT was just the person he was looking to talk to. He hurriedly asked, "Wang Ma, do you still recall the names of the kindergarten, elementary school, middle school and high school that Ruoxi attended?"

"Of course! I used to accompany her to school all the time. But, Young Master, why are you asking this out of the blue?" Wang Ma's voice was laced with curiosity.

Yang Chen giggled. "It's nothing, I'm just trying to understand something. Do go on."

Seated beside an ecstatic Yang Chen, mirth danced across An Xin's face. But deep down, she was envious of Ruoxi. Would the day finally come when her man would show interest in her past?

Inside Li Moshen's study room within his house in Beijing, Li Moshen was clad in a Western-styled coat, and was cheerfully facing the middle-aged man in a soldier's uniform seated in front of him.

"The day has just started, what brings you here, General Cai? Surely you've not come all this way for some morning tea?" Li Moshen wore a doting expression on his face, as if he was looking at a beloved nephew and not the highest ranked official in the all-powerful security bureau.

This was also Cai Yuncheng's first time stepping foot on the Li clan's residence even though their descendant Yong Ye had been pursuing his daughter Cai Ning. However, Cai Yuncheng had never intended to rise in ranks by taking full advantage of his own daughter. That was not the case in the past when he was not the general of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, and it still wouldn't be now. Even though he was on equal footing with the Li clan, he still kept his distance from them.

Cai Yuncheng laughed and shook his head before lifting a clay teacup and sipped on the boiling tea. That cup of tea had been personally served by the eldest son in the Li clan, Li Yunpeng.

Wearing a modest Chinese tunic suit, Li Yunpeng was a handsome, dapper, middle-aged man, although in truth, he was not much older than Cai Yuncheng. At this moment, he was smiling warmly and standing next to Li Moshen, but didn't utter a single word.

In fact, the oldest son in the Li clan, Li Yunpeng, had always come across as Li Moshen's personal assistant. It was rare for him to show off his capabilities. In contrast, his son Li Dun was much more well-known in Beijing. Yan Buwen from the Yan clan and Li Dun were known as the Beijing King Duo.

It was as if the Li clan started from Li Moshen then proceeded to Li Dun directly. Li Yunpeng who was in the middle, was nothing more than a bridge spanning both generations.

However, anyone with brains would know better than to underestimate Li Yunpeng, because a middle-aged man who could survive in such a household and do odds and ends for his own father, was competent in ways that the public could not fathom just yet.

“Chief, I wouldn’t dare disturb you if this wasn’t an urgent matter,” said Cai Yun bluntly.

Li Moshen squinted. “Although the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade falls under the supervision of the security bureau, they’ve always been very independent. Now that General Cai is in charge, and there wouldn’t be any changes anytime soon, feel free to request this lazy chief to show up if you need help.”

Cai Yun mulled over his words, his fingertip unconsciously tapping on the armrests of the chair. He then spoke up. “There’s been trouble in Zhonghai.”

Li Moshen’s expression remained unchanged. Instead, he asked, “Is it that kid from the Yang clan?”

“That’s right,” said Cai Yuncheng, smiling gently. “Sky Dragon and Ye Zi who are in charge of monitoring him reported to me last night, saying that there have been conflicts between Yang Chen and the White Wolf Society from Su Province along with some conflict with the Zhu family. I’ve sent the comprehensive details to the archives. You may go over them if you’d like.”

Li Moshen raised his head slightly and turned to his son, signalling the latter.

Li Yunpeng nodded. He proceeded to retrieve a sleek but rarely used laptop from a cabinet. He helped his father to turn on the laptop and accessed the archives of the security bureau.

Li Moshen opened the the file containing a comprehensive report on the incident and some background information. He skimmed through the file solemnly. “The White Wolf Society in Su Province is not as straightforward as they seem to be. Not only that, their dealings with the Zhu family have been going on for a long period of time. If we were to strike now, it would cause a disturbance in the nature of things.”

Cai Yuncheng laughed bitterly. “My thoughts exactly. The Zhu family from Su Province are extremely influential and the White Wolf Society are quite well off themselves. With them in Su Province, the underworld there has always been fairly stable. We intended to leave them as they were because the situation was mutually beneficial. But now, Yang Chen was dead serious on wiping them out. And once he sets his mind to something, I have never not known him to succeed.”

Li Moshen furrowed his eyebrows and asked, “What’s the matter? Doesn’t he care about Hongmeng?”

Cai Yuncheng replied, “Sky Dragon informed me that Yang Chen doesn’t care whether Hongmeng shows up or not this time. He ensured us that the White Wolf Society would be eradicated. If we do not intervene, he will use his influence overseas and act by himself.”

Li Moshen burst into laughter. “He really is Yang Gongming’s grandson after all! I thought that he would bear it in silence. But it would appear as though he is capable of doing anything he wants. This is great! Let us leave the White Wolf Society to their own demise.”

At the sight of Li Moshen’s abrupt decision, Cai Yuncheng frowned and said, “Sir, the minute the White Wolf Society falls, the order in the underworld of Su Province will definitely be disrupted. Furthermore, the Zhu family would fall into their own state of disarray. That would mean the officials from Su Province

will have to be reassigned. Also, the National People's Congress has just concluded not long ago. An event like this will not go unnoticed."

"Then what do you suggest?" Li Moshen pointed his index finger southwards. "The kid from the Yang clan doesn't care about any of this. Without Hongmeng, even if the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade were to team up with the security bureau, we probably wouldn't even stand a chance against his two mercenary groups. Heck, we might not even stand a chance against a handful of members from Zero."

"This is something far beyond our capabilities. Rather than letting that brat of the Yang clan cause a huge ruckus, we should instead slay the brutes we raised ourselves to feel more at ease."

Cai Yuncheng felt as if he had just woken up from a deep dream. His eyes were filled with admiration. All along, it was but much ado about nothing.

The Yellow Flame Iron Brigade's constant monitoring did not serve any purpose of limiting Yang Chen. Since Yang Chen was already so insistent on toppling the White Wolf Society and the Zhu family, if the only party who stood a chance against him—Hongmeng—failed to show up, it would have disastrous consequences for them.

"Old Li, your insight into this matter have been most enlightening," Cai Yuncheng said, dropping the honorific form of address 'chief'. He stood up and bowed. "Please let the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade carry out this task. After all, we excel at reconnaissance."

Li Moshen did not raise any concerns on that matter, and grinned. "General Cai, you should visit the Li clan more often! My nephew's son, Yong Ye, is marrying your daughter Flower Rain. Soon we would be considered relatives. Let us bond together for the sake of our future."

Cai Yuncheng lamented, seeing as matters had progressed till this stage. He actually felt that he had let down his eldest daughter Cai Ning. But he also knew that only the Li clan could save Cai Ning, so he smiled and nodded politely at Li Moshen's suggestion before he excused himself.

Once Cai Yuncheng left, Li Yunpeng voiced out his concerns. "Father, are you sure about leaving the White Wolf Society and the Zhu family to their fate? If both parties are annihilated, the Su Province will descend into chaos."

Li Moshen narrowed his eyes, then said, "This has all been Yang Chen's doing. We're only helpless bystanders after all. If anything catastrophic were to happen, no one can truly pin the blame on us for our inaction."

"But..." Li Yunpeng's face contorted into an undecipherable look. "I really don't understand what Yang Chen is thinking. He can't guarantee that Hongmeng won't show up and take action against him."

"Yang Gongming is hardly worried about this. Why should we worry on his behalf?" Li Moshen giggled.

Li Yunpeng just smiled softly and said, "I'm just curious. Why would someone with such privileges in life not sit still and enjoy them? Why doesn't he just stay abroad and enjoy his life there?"

"Yunpeng," Li Moshen said as he turned his gaze toward the brilliant sunrise from the window. "The fact that the kid was able to survive this long is already considered as a miracle. You shouldn't use normal

logic to rationalise his behavior. After all, no one is truly confident when faced with such an unknown variable.”

Li Yunpeng mulled over his father’s insight in silence.

“Yang Gongming,” Li Moshen muttered quietly to himself, “You have earned my utmost respect.”

Chapter 623

Glutinous Rice Balls

Located at the northern outskirts of Zhonghai, was a row of antique houses set up by a river bank. Amidst the greenery, the houses exerted an ambience of elegance and tranquility.

This area used to be the home of Zhonghai’s most famous education institutions. Due to the increase in population over the past few years, many of the institutions had made their way into the city center to further accommodate their expanding network of students.

Now all that was left in the area were the first and oldest institutions ever built within the boundaries of Zhonghai. These were the few that withstood the test of time.

One of the those institutions was named Yu Lei Highschool. It was covered in thick vines which engulfed both sides of the school gates. Beyond the gates stood several well-worn cement pavements. Each one of them led to its own four to five story high academic building. This was an institution that would hardly stand out in the eyes of the casual pedestrian.

Yang Chen was one of the very few people to have set foot in the institution without any affiliations to it. He was strolling on a walkway paved with pebbles as he made his way through a grape trellis towards the school gate. He then made his way to the entrance of the broadcasting room.

The old security personnel stationed in that room saw Yang Chen approaching and warmly smiled before asking, “Young man, did you manage to find Madam Tong?”

Yang Chen nodded with a smile as he passed him a cigarette. The old security happily accepted it from Yang Chen’s hands.

Yang Chen drew his lighter and lit the cigarette for him before doing so for himself. Yang Chen then continued, “Madam Tong had just ended her class. So I headed towards the direction of the office you pointed out earlier. She was just evaluating her students’ homework.”

“That’s great. At least you got what you came for.” The old security guard had been serving in his post for many years. It had come to a point where the days had begun to blend together, making life at his job extremely boring. It was extremely rare for someone to come by and have a smoke and chat with him. So naturally, he was very welcoming to Yang Chen’s kind gesture.

“But it’s still all thanks to you, Brother. Without you, I would’ve been wandering aimlessly around the school. It would have taken me a much longer time to find who I was looking for,” Yang Chen continued with deep appreciation towards him.

The old security guard proudly replied, “I’ve been working in this school for almost thirty years now. There’s nothing I don’t know! Events that had happened roughly ten years ago are still as fresh in my mind as they were in the past.”

Yang Chen continued the conversation by bringing up a series of questions about past events that had happened in the school, be it important or insignificant. The old security guard was more than happy to regale the events as he enthusiastically babbled on. Yang Chen listened attentively—in particular—to the stories of Lin Ruoxi’s alma mater.

Yang Chen researched about Lin Ruoxi’s previous elementary and junior high schools that were specifically pointed out by Wang Ma. He discovered that both of them had unfortunately merged with bigger schools, rendering it impossible to find Lin Ruoxi’s previous seat in class, or the educators who had once taught her.

Luckily for him however, Yu Lei Highschool had braved the test of time and was still standing where it was years after the other schools had left. Even though it was not extremely well-known in Zhonghai due to its dilapidated exterior, the quality of education was still among the best in the area.

Yu Lei International was a huge enterprise. A small investment placed by a corporation in a school was not an uncommon sight.

Yang Chen—through the old security guard—managed to locate Lin Ruoxi’s class teacher. Everyone called her Madam Tong.

She no longer taught the challenging senior-year students due to her age. Instead, she relegated herself to fewer responsibilities by taking up freshmen classes, which meant less workloads for her.

When Yang Chen came up to her, she was caught off guard when she found out that he was Lin Ruoxi’s husband. She stared at him with a face full of confusion for a better part of their conversation.

By the look of Madam Tong’s face, Yang Chen could decipher its meaning without having to hear her utter a single word. It simply spelled out, *How did Lin Ruoxi fall for a man like him?*

It was evident that no matter how many years had passed, Lin Ruoxi’s presence had never waned in her teacher’s heart.

Yang Chen however came prepared. If he were to come up to the teacher and start off by saying ‘Lin Ruoxi is my wife and I’m here to understand more about her prior student life’, without any presented evidence, there was no way she was going to believe him. Not to mention a woman like Lin Ruoxi most likely had a parade of men after her.

Noticing the suspicious look on Madam Tong’s face, Yang Chen retrieved his marriage certificate with Lin Ruoxi.

Madam Tong was still unconvinced by the certificate. It was only until Yang Chen started describing Ruoxi’s background, and how Wang Ma introduced the school to him before she believed him.

Between their introduction and the time which school ended, Yang Chen accompanied Madam Tong as they circled the school compound. Madam Tong took this time to recount her past with Lin Ruoxi.

This might have been the longest Yang Chen had ever spent listening to anyone's history. In the two hours which Yang Chen had paid close attention to, he envisioned scene after scene of the events portrayed in Madam Tong's flashbacks. And there in the middle of it all, was an unfamiliar version Lin Ruoxi. A Lin Ruoxi that he never got to know.

When it was about time for school to end, Yang Chen reluctantly bade her farewell as he understood that she had other tasks to take care of.

But right before she left, Yang Chen sneaked in a final question. "Are you sad that Ruoxi has not visited after all these years?"

With a gentle smile, Madam Tong replied, "Throughout the years of my teaching career, the amount of students I have taught could very well be in the thousands. If every one of them came back to visit me, there's no way I could ever work in peace! But I'm just glad to know that Ruoxi has now become the CEO of Yu Lei. She is doing a lot better than most of the students that I have taught. For that, I'm satisfied. With that personality of hers, I would be more surprised if she actually came to visit me!"

Yang Chen felt a little emotional. A small part of him pitied himself for never truly having experienced the life of a student. This teacher might've been a stern and unconforming educator. But now as she regaled stories of her past students, she came off most as a caring and compassionate mother.

With these complicated emotions inside, Yang Chen once again encountered the old security guard on his way out and decided to have a quick chat before school ended.

The old security personnel passionately shook Yang Chen's hand, hoping that he would stop by again, which left Yang Chen feeling quite awkward. *?This man must be really bored at work,?* Yang Chen thought.

Walking to the parking lot, Yang Chen drew his car keys ready to make his way back, before he noticed a familiar presence.

From a distance, an attractive figure wearing a white blouse and a pair of sky-blue skinny jeans moved gracefully through the pedestrian alley on her bicycle.

Her dark brunette hair elegantly fluttering in the wind prompted a narrow glance from Yang Chan as he identified the owner of that mesmerising smile. It was someone whom he had not met in a long while, Zhao Hongyan!

"Hongyan?" Yang Chen yelled out in surprise, excited that he ran into an old friend.

Zhao Hongyan, who was cycling on her bike, instantly recognised his voice. She pulled on the brakes to stop her bicycle. Her initial reaction of surprise quickly turned into a bright smile before she replied, "Yang Chen, what are you doing here?"

Yang Chen and Zhao Hongyan both slowly made their way to each other. The two of them had known one another for around a year now. They had spent large amounts of time together in the company which led to them getting very close. Not to mention the intimate moments they spent together. A while ago, Yang Chen even helped in an incident involving Zhao Hongyan's husband whose entire family were crazy, leaving them closer than ever before.

And it was because of those events, their reunite had an ominous feeling of non-clarity.

Yang Chen quickly glanced through Zhao Hongyan's bicycle basket. It was filled with vegetables and meat. So he rhetorically asked, "Were you coming from the market?"

"Yup." Zhao Hongyan nodded with a smile. "I don't believe I have mentioned it but I live right around the corner from here. What about you, did you come from Yu Lei Highschool?" She recalled something in her mind and continued, "Oh yeah, that day at Boss Lin's office I remember mentioning my family problems. Are you by any chance accompanying her back to her alma mater?"

Yang Chen could clearly remember the events that happened not too long ago. Lin Ruoxi had invited Zhao Hongyan into her office, and offered to settle her father's medical bills in exchange for several clauses. Some of which included staying with Yu Lei International for 10 years and a paycut of fifty percent.

Now that Zhao Hongyan had brought that up, Yang Chen recalled the question he previously had in mind. "Well I had some stuff to deal with, that's why I came over on my own. What about you? Didn't you sign a 10-year contract with the company? Did something happen to your father which required you to move back?"

Zhao Hongyan consequently shook her head and replied, "No, my dad has actually gotten a lot better after the kidney donation thanks to Boss Lin's medical funding. He has almost fully recovered and could go back to working. However, his well-being is still far from optimal which requires me to support him. Besides, now that my dad has resumed his business, I can make a little more there than I did at the company. This means I will be able to pay off my loans a little easier. I brought it up to both Mingyu and Boss Lin, and they both supported my decision. So here I am."

After listening to her explanation, Yang Chen felt relieved. Even if the medical expenses reached millions, money could always be earned. A healthy body was something that cannot be regained once it was lost.

But after the topic ended so did the conversation. Both Zhao Hongyan and Yang Chen had not seen each other in quite a while. The sudden meeting left them in an awkward situation, without any ideas on how to continue the conversation.

Zhao Hongyan was silent for a bit before she gave a shy little grin. "Since you're here, why don't you follow me to our glutinous rice ball store? Our recipe was passed down for generations. I can guarantee that it is not your typical dessert!"

Yang Chen had a wide grin on his face. *How could I forget? Ruoxi loves the glutinous rice balls from Hongyan's place! If I bring some back with me, it'll help with my situation for sure!*

Thus Yang Chen willingly accepted her invitation. Zhao Hongyan led the way on her bicycle while Yang Chen followed behind in his car as they leisurely made their way to the storefront.

Zhao Hongyan's family-owned glutinous rice balls shop had an antique outlook. The storefront housed a sign with the words 'Zhao's Glutinous Rice Balls'. Flanking its sides were paragraphs describing the history of their family business. Located between a row of hip restaurants and eateries, it was rather underwhelming to say the least. But nonetheless, there was a surprisingly long queue outside the shop!

“I didn’t know you needed to queue for glutinous rice balls.” Yang Chen had never before seen quite a sight like this one. The places that he previously went to buy glutinous rice balls for Lin Ruoxi had never garnered such a long queue

Zhao Hongyan boastfully replied, “Oh this is still manageable. Wait till school’s over. The queue usually stretches all the way across the road. More often than not, we run out of ingredients to satisfy the ever-growing demand.”

Yang Chen was amazed. It was no wonder Lin Ruoxi had been praising it from the moment she tried it. The crowd itself was a testament to their glutinous rice balls.

Since there were many people at the storefront, Zhao Hongyan quickly made her way into the store, casually greeted her father and her brother and told them about Yang Chen’s visit. Business was hectic so all they could do was to give Yang Chen a courteous smile and invited him to the back for tea.

Zhao Hongyan accompanied Yang Chen to the back of the store which functioned as the living room where her family stayed. She prepared a pot of tea for him to go along with a plate of exquisite rice balls.

“Try them out. These are all our classic glutinous rice balls. If you like them just take some along with you. Don’t forget to share them with Boss Lin.” Zhao Hongyan was clearly in a good mood as she continued to enthusiastically talk about her family business.

Yang Chen was mesmerised by the glutinous rice balls that were before him. The refreshing and enticing smell wafted through the air around him, making his mouth water uncontrollably. He couldn’t help himself but devour them in huge mouthfuls.

One bite into the glutinous rice ball unraveled its sweet fragrance without being overpowering. The red or soy bean filling was pleasantly sweet but not too greasy.

Yang Chen once again approved of Lin Ruoxi’s taste buds. These glutinous rice balls were a treat that no one could resist.

“How was it?” Zhao Hongyan was eager to know.

Yang Chen was extremely busy feasting on the glutinous rice balls. When posed with the question, he raised his thumb up while saying, “It really is good. I believe the crowd outside is real now. It’s definitely not background actors!”

“Screw you! Why’d you have to say that?” Zhao Hongyan exclaimed. “If you like it a lot, feel free to bring some home. Even though the ingredients are starting to run a little low, there’s always enough to treat a friend.”

Yang Chen licked his lips. A smile escaped his lips revealing some ulterior motives. “Hongyan, I want to ask you something.”

“Continue.”

“Can your rice balls be custom made?”

“What do you mean?” Zhao Hongyan was clueless of what he was trying to say.

Yang Chen awkwardly rubbed on the back of his head as he replied, "I would like to ask your father and brother to make some custom made glutinous rice balls. It's nothing too drastic. Just a slight tweak on your famed glutinous rice balls."

Zhao Hongyan was puzzled, but she nodded anyway. "It's not too difficult. Just some rice balls with slight decorations right? With my dad's craftsmanship it's not going to be a problem. But why would you need decorations on the rice balls that you're going to eat anyway?"

Yang Chen let out a long sigh. Zhao Hongyan might not be his woman but she was still pretty close to him. It wasn't a secretive topic anyway. "I want to bring these rice balls home as an apology to my wife. That's why I need the decorations."

"Your wife?" Zhao Hongyan frowned. She might have known that Yang Chen had a wife, but that was all she knew. Now that she was presented with this opportunity to figure things out, she hesitantly replied, "Your wife, could it be..."

"Oh you didn't know?" Yang Chen asked. Zhao Hongyan might have been kept in the dark about his marriage with Lin Ruoxi. But it was no surprise as it was a well-kept secret from the entire company. Only Mo Qianni and Liu Mingyu knew about it. He explained, "Well you guessed it right. Ruoxi and I have been married for some time now. We just never publicly announced it."

Zhao Hongyan was left dumbfounded from the revelation. Only after a few long minutes, she reacted by giving Yang Chen a peculiar stare. Everything that was once a mystery to her was now crystal clear.

"Thank god I didn't do anything behind Boss Lin's back," Zhao Hongyan mumbled under her breath.

Yang Chen however managed to hear everything she said. He teased her by saying, "Thank god for what? What could you have possibly done behind her back?"

Zhao Hongyan's face immediately became extremely red. She clenched her teeth and glared at Yang Chen. All the time spent between Yang Chen and herself showed underlying feelings of romance brewing. Fortunately nothing came to fruition, or else she might have betrayed the savior that she had always respected and adored.

"If you actually married a woman as good as Boss Lin then you should be content with that. Why would you spend so much time with us female employees back then? What an irresponsible person!" Zhao Hongyan seemed furious on the outside. But deep down, she was just disappointed.

If only she had known that there was something off with this man, she would have asked about the woman whose hand he had taken in marriage. If only she had known it was Lin Ruoxi, she wouldn't have expected anything out of her relationship with Yang Chen.

Yang Chen's motive was to neutralise the awkwardness between them. At the very beginning when he first met Zhao Hongyan, his marriage with Lin Ruoxi was just nothing but a contract. That was why spending time with pretty girls was considered alright to him.

As time went by, Zhao Hongyan and Yang Chen had had several intimate encounters. It was kept at bay ultimately because he switched to Yu Lei Entertainment. This led to awkwardness that they were faced with today.

For Yang Chen to say he felt nothing for Zhao Hongyan would be a lie. But they couldn't truly be called lovers. It was probably in his best interest to keep a clear distance between them given his disastrous love life.

It was smack dab around the peak hours of the store, so Yang Chen had to wait until it was over before he could receive his custom order.

The peak hours however usually lasted until dinner time, so Zhao Hongyan had Yang Chen stay back for dinner at her place. It was not a very difficult decision for Yang Chen to make. He made sure to call back home to inform Wang Ma that he would be eating out while visiting an old friend.

After slightly over an hour the crowd of students subsided. It was only until then did Zhao Hongyan's father manage to scrape together enough time for Yang Chen and his custom order of glutinous rice balls.

When Yang Chen gave him his request, Old Zhao was confused to say the least. He started to wonder if his old age was affecting his hearing.

Zhao Hongyan meanwhile was laughing hysterically at Yang Chen's order. It was as ridiculous as they came.

Yang Chen on the other hand, kept a straight face and held Old Zhao wrinkled hands tightly as he earnestly pleaded, "Uncle Zhao, please you have to help me out. The well-being of my family lies in the hands of your glutinous rice balls!"

His words might have sounded weird but Old Zhao agreed anyway. And so he went to prepare the glutinous rice balls.

While waiting, Yang Chen noticed his phone vibrating. It was Rose.

He recalled pleading her to look after Zhenxiu and conduct a detailed background check on this Jiao Yanyan girl. Now that Rose had contacted him, she must have finished conducting her research. With that in mind, he promptly accepted the call.

Chapter 624

Countless Paths

Not one second more after Yang Chen picked up the call, Rose yelled into the phone before he could even get a word in. Excited, she shouted, "Hubby, I love you so much! How did you pull that off?! So it seems that even the military and the special forces follow your orders. The outcome of your orders have been quite interesting to say the least."

Yang Chen distanced the phone from his ear due to the loud sounds coming from it. Since Rose was generally a composed person, he knew that something must've taken place in the underworld.

"How old are you? You need to stop exaggerating and learn to stay calm. Could you tell me what had happened slowly?" Yang Chen asked, frowning and smiling helplessly.

Displeased, Rose snorted through the phone. She then asked, "Hubby, you don't know? Aren't you the one behind White Wolf Society's incident?"

“White Wolf Society?” Yang Chen pondered for a while before remembering his encounter and dealings with them. Smiling, he asked, “Why, did something happen to them?”

Rose took it as Yang Chen being unaware of the situation. So she explained the situation briefly.

This morning, the headquarters of White Wolf Society which was located in Su Province got obliterated by the military. They were even surrounded by the special forces stationed there.

The White Wolf Society had a decent number of highly skilled individuals. As a result, they weren’t willing to turn themselves in and retaliated. However, the sheer number of people they had faced exceeded their previous assumptions. It ultimately led to their defeat!

“White Wolf Society is basically done for. The only reason they were able to expand their networks was due to their relations with various government officials and the Zhu family. Now that the Zhu family has fallen, they stood no chance at all,” Rose announced in delight. “Su Province will soon fall into chaos, which will enable me to swoop in and takeover much easier than before.”

Yang Chen wasn’t too surprised. He was just shocked that Yellow Flame Iron Brigade was that efficient—they didn’t ponder on his words for too long.

He requested and half-threatened Yellow Flame Iron Brigade to punish White Wolf Society. He believed that his request was not unreasonable for them. It was either he deal with the situation himself or they deal with it in his place. Naturally, it was better off for them to get rid of a regional underworld syndicate. Although there would be disorder for a short period of time, they could salvage their reputation and actions by forming a better image for the government by improving the lives of the civilians.

Rose rejoiced at that incident. Not only could she now conquer large areas of Su Province which were initially controlled by White Wolf Society. The sweet taste of revenge she enjoyed was quite the bonus too. When she received her internal injuries caused by White Wolf Society, it stirred something within her even though she chose not to act on it. Being beaten by her opponent in front of her subordinates had greatly affected her pride.

Listening to Rose’s endless proposals, Yang Chen smiled helplessly. “You may proceed with your plans at your discretion. You need not report them to me.”

“But what if I make a mistake and come face to face with a major consequence? Information in Su Province has been tightly sealed,” Rose said reluctantly.

“I’ll stand in your place should you run into trouble,” answered Yang Chen.

Rose remained silent for a short while before she chuckled. “Hubby, you shouldn’t spoil me like this.”

“I like spoiling you. You can’t stop me from it,” Yang Chen replied.

Although Zhao Hongyan didn’t know what the conversation was about, judging by Yang Chen’s tone, she knew that he must be talking to a woman he was immensely intimate with. As a result, she felt an involuntary heartache.

If my past painful marriage had never taken place, I would probably be spoiled by a loving man too, won’t I?? Zhao Hongyan thought.

Having conversed cheerfully for a short while, Rose remembered the task she was entrusted by Yang Chen. When she started talking about Jiao Yanyan, she sounded even more contented with the news.

“Hubby, you asked me to run a background check on the bossy girl called Jiao Yanyan, right? It’s quite a coincidence. Try guessing which gang she’s from.”

“Could it be White Wolf Society?” asked Yang Chen with a smile.

“Yeah. I was quite surprised myself when I found out. Her father is their president, named Jiao Baiyang. He’s in his fifties and he has quite a few lovers. All of them dislike each other, which is why Jiao Baiyang let them stay separately. Jiao Yanyan is his youngest daughter who’s studying in Zhonghai. Many people are still unaware of the fact that she is his daughter.

“Speaking of this, Jiao Baiyang had several contingency plans which he had prepared ahead of time. Everyone knows that it’s not that uncommon for someone of the underworld to face family extermination. Since he raises his children in different provinces, it is unlikely for his family to be completely wiped out.”

Yang Chen wasn’t aware of that. It was no wonder that while Jiao Yanyan was cocky, she couldn’t pull off the drastic stunts that she had threatened them with. She should be aware that she was just one of the illegitimate children, and White Wolf Society operated outside Zhonghai.

“Jiao Yanyan left school immediately after getting informed. Together with her mother, she was brought away by Jiao Baiyang’s right hand. I have been monitoring their movements. I leave it up to you to decide their fate,” Rose said.

Yang Chen thought for a while and said, “Forget about them. Even if they escape, they would not be able to live comfortably. Let someone else deal with them.”

Rose didn’t object. She had a lot to deal with in the coming weeks. There really was no need to get violent with a mother-daughter pair.

After the conversation with Rose ended, it was almost time for dinner to be served in Zhao Hongyan’s home.

Zhao Hongyan seemed to be in deep thought about several issues so she didn’t speak much. On the other hand, Yang Chen had a good time chatting with her younger brother and Old Zhao.

Old Zhao’s condition had recovered significantly. His face had regained its pinkish hue, making him appear healthy. Unfortunately, his condition had brought misfortune to come upon his daughter. Had he not gotten sick, his daughter didn’t have to get married to the Yu family. Old Zhao very much preferred the fellow in front of him a lot more than the previous guy!

However, Old Zhao dismissed his intention when he was informed of Yang Chen’s marriage. Old people had a simple and straightforward mindset. No matter how great a man was, he shall not be with other women if he was married.

Old Zhao had even prepared some green tea after the meal. Back then, Lin Ruoxi mentioned that he was highly skilled in making tea. Yang Chen looked at the ordinary teaset being moved around by the old man hastily until a cup of fragrant tea was served to him.

Old Zhao's tea-making techniques seemed quite ordinary. However, having practised martial arts, Yang Chen understood daoism rather well. His interactions with Yan Sanniang had only further expanded his knowledge of the subject.

Although martial arts and tea-making techniques appeared unrelated on the surface, Yang Chen could clearly feel that Old Zhao was immersed in a separate, unknown realm when making tea.

Practice makes perfect. Even the most common acts could be improved upon in various ways.

"The same destination can be reached via countless paths," Yang Chen murmured while staring at the teacup.

Zhao Hongyan frowned and asked, "Why haven't you touched your tea yet? Note that my dad seldom makes tea for visitors."

Yang Chen finally regained awareness. Smiling, he slowly sipped on the tea. He was immediately impressed by the underlying hint of sweetness that came from within the leaves.

"Uncle Zhao, it's quite a waste that your store is this small when your glutinous rice balls and tea are both so magical. Have you considered expanding your scale of operations?" Yang Chen asked.

Old Zhao sighed. "Yang Chen, I've wrestled with that decision time and time again. The technique and recipe of making the rice balls were passed down from our ancestors. Selling them away is a blatant act of disrespect. Furthermore, if we were to expand, we would require large amounts of capital to finance the expansion. This is still not inclusive of labour costs. Our family does not have the money to do that right now."

Zhao Hongyan said sorrowfully, "When my dad was still strong and healthy, a company offered to purchase our recipe, and was willing to finance our expansion. However, the craft exclusive to our family cannot be sold, and they weren't willing to only collect interests from their capital."

Yang Chen rubbed his nose. *No one would generously offer to expand a rice ball business without getting their family secrets. However, there might just be someone—the great Sister Lin who loves glutinous rice balls as much as her life,* he thought.

Yang Chen didn't reveal what he had in mind. He bade the Zhao family goodbye soon after. Naturally, he didn't forget to bring the 'extraordinary rice balls' made by Old Zhao along.

It was almost ten o'clock at night. After Yang Chen reached home, he tried to come up with a way to seek forgiveness from Lin Ruoxi using the rice balls, in addition to proposing Zhao Hongyan's large-scale business expansion to this capitalist.

Yang Chen proceeded to the living room, only to find Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma watching the newly released Korean drama. Lin Ruoxi was nowhere to be seen. Curious, he asked, "Mom, why isn't Ruoxi watching the drama with you guys?"

Guo Xuehua didn't bother to turn her head to look at Yang Chen. "Oh, so it turns out you are still capable of missing your wife. Ruoxi is staying back at her office and skipping the dinner at home."

Yang Chen was taken aback. Sighing, he knew that Lin Ruoxi only did that because she wasn't willing to see him. However, he didn't return home for dinner as well. So why did she have to do that?

Yang Chen decided to personally send the rice balls to her office. It might buy him points in the sincerity department.

However, having been away from home the entire time, he was quite miserable looking. Yang Chen quickly went upstairs as he planned to take a shower. He wanted to look neat and clean before presenting himself to Lin Ruoxi.

When he walked past Zhenxiu's room, he noticed that the lights were still on. That kid should still be doing her revision, so Yang Chen didn't ask her about the school affairs.

Coming to his room, he undressed and opened the large wardrobe, only to be greatly surprised.

Chapter 625

I've Seen You In School Before

All of the clothes that were originally in his wardrobe were now gone. Not a single one of the clothing he had owned previously was there!

The clothes that now occupied the wardrobe were a completely new set of clothing. They came in various colors and designs. It included, but was not limited to, short-sleeved and long-sleeved shirts made of many different materials such as pure cotton, mercerized cotton, linen, and even silk. All of which were washed and neatly folded up in the closet

Just as before, the clothes were all branded goods from all around the world. This entire wardrobe of clothes would have costed at least two to three million yuan minimum.

He took the ready-prepared clothes by the bedside and did not take any clothing from the wardrobe when he went to shower the previous night. Yang Chen had no idea when Ruoxi managed to switch out all of his clothing.

Yang Chen scratched his head. He was extremely puzzled. He walked out of the room with his upper body naked, with the intention of finding out from Wang Ma who was sitting on the sofa downstairs. He asked, "Wang Ma, why have my clothes been replaced?"

Wang Ma lifted up her head puzzled with his question. "They were replaced the day before yesterday. How is it that you just found out?"

Indeed. It must have been changed earlier. Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "Why replace all the clothes so suddenly?"

"It was Miss who made someone send them over. It happened when you were out. Miss said that summer is coming soon so she replaced your clothes with ones that provided better cooling. I was the one who hung them up together with Miss. It took quite some effort," Wang Ma said with a smile.

Yang Chen stood blankly at the top of the stairs, unable to say anything.

Lin Ruoxi bought and hung all these clothes for him? Besides, she also thought of replacing his clothes now that the seasons are changing?

Whereas the day before yesterday when she was getting all these clothes for him and hanging them up, Yang Chen was at Liu Mingyu's place. He didn't return home that night...

And yesterday, Yang Chen even misunderstood and accused her for monitoring Mo Qianni...

Within Yang Chen's heart, a surge of warmth followed by a cold bitter chill clashed from within. He even had difficulty breathing.

When a human's emotions are at their peak, regardless of how profound one's cultivation is, remaining calm would still require quite some effort.

When he pictured the sight of Lin Ruoxi reaching up and bending down to hang his clothes one after another, Yang Chen could feel his head warm up while his heart was being repeatedly stabbed with needles.

"Silly woman, what have you done to me." Yang Chen sighed bitterly in his heart, and walked back to the room.

After taking a quick shower and changing into a new set of clothes, Yang Chen left the house with the glutinous rice balls. Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma didn't ask anything as well. They just looked at each other and smiled.

... ..

At the top of Yu Lei International's building, inside the CEO's office, the room was well lit with bright white lights. It was as though the night never came for that room.

Behind the enormous desk, Lin Ruoxi was staring at her computer, screening through multiple documents. Her icy facade rendered her beautiful face emotionless. She was like an ice statue, not knowing what tiredness and fatigue were.

Someone knocked on the office door. Lin Ruoxi didn't raise her head. Instead, she just said in a flat tone, "Come in."

Her assistant Wu Yue who was wearing an old-fashioned suit walked into the office. She was holding a cup of black coffee on a tray. The fragrant aroma wafted through the entire office room.

There was a look of concern in Wu Yue's eyes. She gently placed the cup of coffee on the office table. "Boss Lin, it's almost half past eleven. You haven't even had your dinner yet. If you continue like this..."

"I asked you to make me a cup of coffee. I didn't ask you to lecture me." Lin Ruoxi interrupted her.

Wu Yue didn't dare to continue. She frowned a little and let out a sigh. With nothing else in mind, she turned around to leave the office.

She had only taken a few steps when Lin Ruoxi said, "You should go home. I don't need you on duty anymore."

Wu Yue stopped in her steps. She let out one of her rare smiles and turned around shaking her head. "It's not an issue. I am Boss Lin's assistant. If Boss Lin is not leaving, I must not leave as well."

"I told you to go home. Just listen. Or do you think it is time that you were transferred to a different position?" Lin Ruoxi's tone was much more serious this time.

Wu Yue did not feel attacked by that statement regardless of how it sounded. She just took a look at Lin Ruoxi resignedly. "Then I'll be leaving. Boss Lin, please leave for home to rest soon too."

"Go ahead."

Wu Yue didn't stay any longer. After a whole day of work, she would be lying if she said she wasn't tired. She was already so tired when she was just an assistant. It was difficult for her to imagine being the CEO. She was impressed that Lin Ruoxi could continue working late into the night without even showing any signs of fatigue a little.

Back when they were in university, the first time Wu Yue bumped into Lin Ruoxi was in a narrow path on campus. The lady dressed in white with beautiful black hair appeared as graceful as a fairy under the green shades of the trees and in the warm sunlight.

That woman made a lasting impression in Wu Yue's mind. Just like many others in the university at that time, she found it hard to believe that there could really be such a woman in this world. A woman who made other women feel so insignificant with just a look.

Later on, as time passed, many people started to take interest in Lin Ruoxi. And it was only then that Wu Yue learnt about Lin Ruoxi's background. From then on, although she was one year Lin Ruoxi's junior, Wu Yue had shadowed the most prominent girl in university closely. Even when Lin Ruoxi had quit school halfway through her graduate studies to take on the CEO position at Yu Lei, Wu Yue was still worrying about her in school.

Sometime after that, Wu Yue herself gave up on her graduate studies. Nervously, she came to Yu Lei to become Lin Ruoxi's assistant. Wu Yue had always been curious—there were so many Master graduates, PhD graduates, and talented people that could immediately be appointed a very high position if they had gone to other companies. Yet Lin Ruoxi chose none of them, and instead chose Wu Yue. A fresh university graduate.

Even though her grades were outstanding, she wasn't exactly qualified enough for the position of the CEO's assistant in a multinational corporate.

Wu Yue herself knew that she had never spoken to Lin Ruoxi at all before that. She could clearly recall their first conversation when she asked Lin Ruoxi about her decision in making her the assistant.

"I've seen you before in school. You ran for the students' union president position. That speech of yours was not too bad..."

This was Lin Ruoxi's reply. It was very succinct, without any variation in her intonation at all. Yet, warm tears started rolling down Wu Yue's face on the spot.

Wu Yue had spent more than a month to prepare her speech for the presidential election. Countless nights were spent repeatedly practicing and making adjustments. But in the end, she was not selected. All she could do was weep in her room, as if she had been forgotten by the entire world.

However, the person that she had always admired actually remembered her. She recognized her!

From then on, Wu Yue no longer had any fear or anxiety. She mastered her job as an assistant very quickly. Many in the company did not like her inflexible and rigid style, but she disregarded their opinions. As long as Lin Ruoxi was satisfied with her performance, it was good enough for her.

Wu Yue walked out of the office room, gently closing the door behind her.

After Wu Yue had left, Lin Ruoxi finally lifted her head up. She stared at the main door of the office room blankly for quite a while.

Lin Ruoxi let out a long sigh as she nestled her head between her hands and closed her eyes.

She had been working from morning till almost midnight. Roughly twelve hours in total. Not mentioning her other duties, anyone's eyes would feel tired after staring at a computer screen for extended periods of time.

But she had gotten accustomed to it after all this time. She had been supporting this gigantic business empire alone for all these years. Because she knew that no one else would do it if not her.

She took a look at the time on the computer. It was indeed half past eleven already. Lin Ruoxi touched her stomach. It was starting to feel slightly uncomfortable due to gastric pain.

Out of nowhere, Lin Ruoxi suddenly felt upset. If it wasn't for the fact that she was avoiding a certain someone, she would not have chosen to work overtime and skip dinner. She could have done her work in her study room at home instead.

It technically wasn't against the rules for Wu Yue to bring some food into the office. But if others were to hear of the CEO having to munch on snacks alone in the office, won't that be quite a hit to her pride? She still had to care about her face to her subordinates.

At such a late hour, she would be too ashamed to eat even if she returned home. She didn't dare to eat supper outside on her own either. *That cruel man is to blame for all of these!* Lin Ruoxi bit her lips angrily.

She took another look at the black coffee that was still warm beside her. Lin Ruoxi had no desire to drink it at all. She shook her head, and was about to continue reading when she heard knocking sounds on the office door again.

Lin Ruoxi could tell that it wasn't Wu Yue. Immediately, she raised her guard and asked warily, "Who is it?" Her fingers were already on top of the button under her office desk that was placed in case of emergencies.

The door opened. Yang Chen stuck his head through, beaming, "Babe Ruoxi, it's me. It's already so late but you haven't gone home yet. I came to fetch you."

Seeing that it was Yang Chen, Lin Ruoxi's eyes let out a chilly look. Without the slightest bit of hesitation, she yelled, "Get out!"

Chapter 626

I Don't Like You

Yang Chen had only just entered the door. Yet he was already blown a step back by Lin Ruoxi's cold attitude. Awkward, he said, "Ruoxi, I know that you're still mad at me. Let's talk this through. I know that it was wrong of me to misjudge you."

"I don't have the time to talk to people like you. Get out. Or would you like me to personally escort you out?" Lin Ruoxi said without a hint of mercy in her voice.

Yang Chen didn't dare to continue with his thick-skinned actions. If he still decided to persist shamelessly with his actions, he would basically be asking for more trouble. All he could do was close the door albeit unwillingly.

Lin Ruoxi clenched her teeth tightly. A complicated look flashed across her eyes. She wasn't sure if she was happy or annoyed that Yang Chen had decided to come. She just stared at the door blankly for quite a while, looking a little lost.

Less than a minute later, Lin Ruoxi heard something again. But this time, the sound was coming from behind her!

Bang, bang, bang! The heavy sound of the glass being knocked on repeatedly was echoing throughout her office.

Lin Ruoxi jolted up from her seat. She turned around, and covered her mouth with her hands in order to keep herself from screaming in shock.

Behind her, outside the floor-to-ceiling tempered glass wall, Yang Chen was standing with his feet on the narrow protruding stretch on the edge. One of his hands was holding on to a small protruding stretch on top, and the other was trying its best to keep the paper bag in it from falling. While Lin Ruoxi was still reeling in shock, Yang Chen stood there with a grin on his face!

This was the top floor of a building that was more than a hundred meters high! The wind was roaring and the low temperature penetrating one's bones!

Lin Ruoxi didn't have the time to ponder about how Yang Chen had managed to get onto the ledge. The moment she thought about how Yang Chen could have fallen from a height of more than a hundred meters if his limbs were to slip a little, made her entire heart dangle in her throat with worry!

If she didn't know that Yang Chen was not ordinary, and that he had extraordinary skills, Lin Ruoxi would have probably fainted from the shock.

"Are you crazy?! What do you think you're doing?!" Lin Ruoxi said angrily. Scanning around, she remembered that the floor-to-ceiling window could be opened, allowing Yang Chen to enter from there.

In between the two of them stood a thick and heavy layer of tempered glass, so it was impossible for them to hear each other. Yet, Yang Chen opened his mouth wide and used his lip movements to say, "Come, home, with, me."

Lin Ruoxi almost fainted. Did he really have to go through such extreme measures to ask her a simple question!? It wasn't as if she was planning to stay in the office the entire night!

At the same time, Lin Ruoxi finally found the section in the glass window that could be opened. Although it was a short distance from where Yang Chen stood, it was still dangerous for him to traverse at such heights for so long. So she immediately ran over to open that section of the glass window.

After opening up that closely shut glass window with tremendous effort, Lin Ruoxi immediately felt a surge of cold wind on her face that also raged across the entire office room. Squinting her eyes and extending her head out of the window, she said to Yang Chen, "Dump that thing that you have in your hand! Hurry up and come in!"

Yang Chen let out a satisfied smile. "I knew it. Babe Ruoxi still wants me. However, I don't think I am allowed to just let this go a hundred meters from the ground."

While he was speaking, Yang Chen lightly tapped his toes together, and as though it was following a predetermined route, his body somersaulted in the air and ended up right outside the window in front of Lin Ruoxi.

This scene was just like a professional aerial acrobatic stunt, making Lin Ruoxi widen her eyes in shock.

Yang Chen leaned against the window and gave Lin Ruoxi a wink. "Would you like to come out and stare at the stars with me?"

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at him. "Lunatic. Hurry up and come in." She had already understood that Yang Chen never cared about that insignificant act.

Yang Chen's romantic suggestion was refused outright by Lin Ruoxi. He just shrugged and with a leap, he landed on the carpet inside the office room.

After shutting the glass window, Lin Ruoxi walked back to the side of the office desk and sat down. Without looking at Yang Chen, she said, "I still have work to do. Please leave."

Yang Chen followed her to the side of the office desk like a child. He placed the paper bag that he was holding in his hand right in front of Lin Ruoxi and said smilingly, "Having to work late into the night is fine. But you still have to eat, right?"

"I'll eat when I feel like it, and I won't if I don't want to. You don't need to concern yourself with that," Lin Ruoxi said flatly.

Yang Chen wasn't anxious either. He already knew that it wouldn't be that easy to talk to this woman. He grabbed a leather chair and sat down beside Lin Ruoxi while tilting his head sideways.

Lin Ruoxi deliberately avoided his gaze a little. She felt a little uneasy being stared upon by Yang Chen. It was becoming increasingly difficult to read her documents. She frowned and asked, "What are you staring at?"

"Ruoxi, you like green, pink, and lemon-yellow colors. But you prefer wearing black clothes, right?" Yang Chen suddenly asked.

Lin Ruoxi looked at this man with a puzzled face. She had no idea where this was going.

"You like any flowers and plants, but your favorite is cape jasmine and wisteria. But because you're afraid of bees, you dare not go near flowers..."

When you listen to music without talking to anyone, you'll doze off in less than five minutes. During your music lessons in senior high school, you failed every test...

Your favorite movie is 'Moulin Rouge', and you're afraid of watching horror movies. If anyone starts talking to you about ghosts and demons, you would walk away and block them out while pretending to have other things to do. But no matter what, you would never be willing to admit that you are scared...

You hate exercising. During physical education lessons, you never did any activities except for the warm up at the start of each lesson. You were always at loggerheads with your physical education teachers, because they always managed to find you from your hiding place...

Your school demanded students to wear school uniforms, yet you refused to wear it, implicating your class to be deducted points every now and then. During the three years of senior high school, no class had ever won an award with you in it. In the end, even your teachers had given up trying to persuade you..."

Biting her bottom lip, Lin Ruoxi had already lowered her head. Looking at her from the side, her face was bright red with embarrassment.

"Stop... Stop talking," Lin Ruoxi said softly. "How did you know..."

Yang Chen smiled in a relaxed manner. "There is nothing to be shy about. I paid a visit to the senior high school that you used to study in today. I met your teacher Madam Tong. She was the one who told me all these things about you. She even mentioned that you have never once returned to visit the school ever since you graduated. Tsk tsk... Babe Ruoxi, you are indeed very cold to everyone..."

"It's none of your business..." Lin Ruoxi mumbled without venom in her voice. Her hands were grabbing onto the pleats of her dress, and she didn't dare to look straight at Yang Chen. But she was a little happy on the inside.

Yang Chen looked slightly proud of himself. "I even know something else. Madam Tong said that when you were in your second year of senior high school, you had a very handsome Mathematics teacher. You offered to take on class duties for the very first time in history and requested to be the Mathematics lesson representative..."

"You're not allowed to talk anymore!" Lin Ruoxi stopped Yang Chen quickly. Everyone had their own childish thoughts during their teenage years. She was no exception.

But looking at the current situation, Lin Ruoxi felt her whole face burn up. *This Madam Tong really is something, talking about things that shouldn't be mentioned. Why did she even bring up that matter about the Mathematics teacher!* she asked.

That was just me being a little confused at that time. If it were me now, why would I fall for a pretentious man whose only goal in life was to act cool? Besides, I was only the lesson representative for half a semester. I immediately quit after that!

Yang Chen giggled and asked, "What should I do? I was still thinking of telling Hui Lin and Zhenxiu about this sometime in the future. I'll tell them that their Sister Ruoxi also had her unforgettable memories as a teenage girl before..."

“Yo—you’re not allowed to tell them!” Lin Ruoxi’s gorgeous face was puffing red. She was almost going mad. *How can this man be so annoying?!*

Yang Chen clicked his tongue. “It’s possible if you want me not to say anything, just eat obediently.”

Lin Ruoxi turned around and looked at the paper bag on the desk, then clenched her teeth. “Alright I’ll eat!”

“Now that’s a good girl,” Yang Chen chuckled.

Lin Ruoxi paid no attention to that shameless guy. She opened up the paper bag with a sour face, and took out a dark brown color container from within. Looking at the packaging, Lin Ruoxi thought it looked slightly familiar. Thinking carefully, she suddenly realized that it was from the rice ball shop she often frequented during her senior high school years! Which meant that it was the shop that was run by Zhao Hongyan’s family!

That’s right, this terrible man went to my high school today. He probably bought the rice balls from there, she thought.

The pains in her stomach finally dispersed slightly. Lin Ruoxi shot a glance at Yang Chen before she opened up the container.

The moment she opened it up, Lin Ruoxi was stunned. The rice balls that were laid out in front of her were all differently decorated. They were different because on top of each rice ball, different characters had been written using red bean paste.

On top of the eight round rice balls that were different in colors wrote, respectively—Your, Highness, my, wife, I, beg, your, forgiveness.

Lin Ruoxi stared at them for quite a while, lost in her train of thoughts. Then she turned around with great difficulty and looked at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen smiled, slightly embarrassed. “Just for these few rice balls, Zhao Hongyan and her whole family even mocked me for being a ‘henpecked husband’. But you too know that I am thick-skinned. So I just shamelessly made Old Zhao custom make these eight rice balls for me. Erm... the flavors are all different, though I’ve never tried them before. I believe that you would probably like them. Old Zhao said that you used to buy more than twenty of them at one go on Fridays for you to eat over the weekend. I think it should be no problem for you to finish eight of them.”

As he saw that Lin Ruoxi’s bright eyes were still staring at himself, and she wasn’t talking. Yang Chen had no idea what went wrong. So he hit himself on the head and smiled. “I miscalculated. It’s too dry to just eat them like this, right? That’s right, you can’t possibly eat rice balls with coffee, and black coffee at that. Hmm... how about I go make you a pot of tea? No, that’s not right as well, tea is alkaline and not easy to digest. Perhaps I’ll go pour you a cup of water...”

Yang Chen was about to get up when he heard Lin Ruoxi ask, “Why?”

Yang Chen was taken aback. “Why what?”

“Why did you do these for me?” asked Lin Ruoxi.

Yang Chen smiled guiltily. "I misjudged you. That alone should be reason enough to do this. Besides... I also heard people saying that the reason why we as a married couple are at odds with each other is because I don't understand you. That's why I wanted to get to know your past better. Not just your family ties, but also your childhood, your schooling years... It's a pity I can't locate your primary school teachers anymore. I'm really curious to know if you were as cold as you are now when you were younger. If that's the case, wouldn't that be super interesting? Hehe..."

Lin Ruoxi was silent, as though she was thinking about something.

Yang Chen thought of something again and smiled while saying, "By the way, I still have to thank you for remembering to buy clothes for me for the change of season. But I'm a somewhat low-class person, so actually there's actually no need for you to get me expensive clothing. Just get me some cheap clothes from anywhere will do. An entire wardrobe of branded clothes would be wasted on a person like me. I know that our family doesn't lack the money, but it could still be spent elsewhere. Don't you want to purchase a large share of the entertainment industry? Just use it where it should be."

After speaking, Yang Chen walked to the water dispenser, took a paper cup and poured a cup of lukewarm water before returning to his seat. Smiling, he continued, "Alright, you must be starving. Hurry up and eat a rice ball. It was made fresh today."

Lin Ruoxi nodded her head with a calm face. She took a rice ball, pinching it with both her hands out of habit, sent it to her mouth and took a small bite.

Though she was chewing on the familiar taste, Lin Ruoxi's mind was distracted. She shot a glimpse at the man beside her from time to time.

After swallowing the first rice ball and no longer feeling any discomfort in her stomach, Lin Ruoxi grabbed the cup of water that Yang Chen had passed to her.

"Just continue eating. Even if you really want to work overtime throughout the night, I won't stop you. But you have to make sure you're full," Yang Chen said.

Lin Ruoxi didn't continue taking the rice balls. Instead, she looked straight at Yang Chen with a complicated look on her face, asking, "Yang Chen, do you really like me?"

Yang Chen paused for a while, and asked with a smile, "Why do you suddenly ask?"

"Actually the night before yesterday, after you suspected me of sending someone to watch Qianni, although I was angry, I also thought of why you might be so suspicious of me," Lin Ruoxi said with a clear voice. "If we are truly husband and wife, then you suspecting me of doing something like that just because of some other woman—doesn't that mean that I am not that important in your heart? Or perhaps... I hold a lower position than your other women in your heart."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "Are you still upset over that incident? I was really preoccupied with matters that I had no time to properly judge the situation. This is a completely different matter from whether I like you or not."

Lin Ruoxi shook her head, her eyes glowed with sadness. "It's not just because of this matter. It's because there really exist too many conflicts and clashes between us. We've been like this since the beginning. I am starting to lose doubt in your favor for me."

Yang Chen restrained his expressions, and said with a serious face, "Since you must know, I'll be completely honest with you."

"Hmm?"

"I don't like you," Yang Chen said gravely.

A glimpse of misery filled Lin Ruoxi's eyes. She was stupefied, unable to say a word.

But as soon as the words left his mouth, Yang Chen smiled, saying, "But I love you!"

With this, Lin Ruoxi didn't even have time to react. Her eyes met with Yang Chen's, and she was completely lost in a daze.

"It's because I love you, and I love you more than I love anyone else, that I care about your feelings to this degree. That's why I hope that our marriage will last. After putting it like this... can you understand now?" Yang Chen asked in all earnestness.

After quite a while, a tinge of redness finally appeared on Lin Ruoxi's gorgeous face. She turned her head sideways to avoid looking at Yang Chen. She then took the glutinous rice balls from the container and continued eating. As she ate, she asked, "What you told me last time, about giving me a present... Is this it?"

Yang Chen was surprised, then he shook his head quickly. "Of course not. I'm very sincere in wanting to give you a present. Just that... I'm a little tight on time. It'll still take some time before I can get it prepared."

Lin Ruoxi nodded, then said in a voice almost as soft as a mosquito buzz. "If your present manages to make me very satisfied... then let's get married..."

Luckily Yang Chen had abnormally strong hearing, so he managed to pick it up clearly. But when he thought about it, he asked in a confused voice, "Get married? Aren't we already legally married?"

Lin Ruoxi turned her head around to face him, her lively eyes filled with shyness and complaint. She puffed her cheeks and said in an adorably angry manner, "You dummy! Are you going to make me stay with you for the rest of my life without even holding a wedding ceremony?!"

Chapter 627

Wedding Ceremony

Wedding ceremony?

An electrical surge flashed through Yang Chen's brain. He was stunned for a while before regaining awareness of his surroundings and smiled in a silly way. "That is true. I've forgotten that we didn't hold a wedding ceremony for our marriage. Hehe..."

Lin Ruoxi who was chewing on the glutinous rice balls couldn't even be bothered to berate him. This was one of life's greatest events, yet he somehow forgot its existence.

"But..." Yang Chen suddenly realized something was amiss again. If he and Lin Ruoxi were to hold a wedding ceremony, they would definitely have to invite guests, right? It was easy for him to draw up his

side of the guest list. He would invite his friends and subordinates. But on Lin Ruoxi's side, her guest list would definitely include some of her 'sisters' in the company who were on very good terms with her.

That was where he hit a roadblock. If Mo Qianni, Liu Mingyu, and the Cai sisters all came to attend their wedding ceremony, how was he going to face each one of these women?

Lin Ruoxi seemed to notice Yang Chen's struggles. She glanced at him with her pretty eyes. "Why, are you not willing to do it?"

Yang Chen shook his head quickly. "I'm willing! Of course I'm willing! But... does it mean that our relationship will then be made public?"

"Of course. What's the alternative? Get married in our home?" Lin Ruoxi said.

Yang Chen thought to himself, *Indeed that's the case. This underhanded proposal of hers was a difficult one to reject. I can't possibly reject the idea for obvious reasons. But once we hold this ceremony, our relationship will be made known to everyone. If I were to still go out with other women, how would they then feel about it?*

Lin Ruoxi continued, "Of course, this isn't something that could be organized overnight. I still have to see what present it is that you'll prepare for me. Don't you use glutinous rice balls to deceive me again. While it is my favourite treat, I don't love it enough to sell myself out to it."

Yang Chen smiled. He used to think that it was pretty 'low-cost' to please this wife of his—how much did a few glutinous rice balls cost? But now it seemed that he had run into a real trouble, and his true wealth would have to come into play.

Lin Ruoxi's eyes revealed a tinge of slyness. "In the past when we got married, I thought that you were broke, so I never expected you to do anything for me. But now that I know you're much more well-off than I am, my expectations have risen considerably.

"Ordinary people have their way of life. The wealthy have their own way of living. I didn't specifically go out of my way to buy branded goods for you, but rather because when I shop for clothes, I tend to choose the branded ones. It's a habit that has become natural to me. As for my wedding ceremony with you, I don't want those simple and unadorned yet genuinely sincere wedding ceremonies. I'm not some pure, innocent young girl. We are going to hold a wedding that reflects my social standings.

"Since you were capable of going to Hokkaido and creating a huge ruckus over that vixen An Xin, I naturally wouldn't let you get away with just a simple ceremony. I want both the spectacular glamor and your genuine sincerity. If you're wondering how you might achieve that, I suggest you start planning now."

Yang Chen felt that he had been played straight into Lin Ruoxi's hands. He fists were clenched tightly, unable to exert even the slightest strength to resist. To be honest, this request was truly not over demanding. Holding a wedding ceremony, even if it were to be grand, how much could it possibly cost?

"Then... when we get married, should we invite... Qianni and the rest?" Yang Chen asked softly, trying to test the waters.

Lin Ruoxi nodded her head without hesitation. Saying with a smile, "Of course we should. Not only Qianni should come, An Xin, Mingyu and Rose should all come. By the way, do you still have any other lovers? Invite them all. I'm planning on meeting them individually. They will surely give us their heartfelt blessings, don't you think so?"

Looking at the ice-frost-like cold sharpness in Lin Ruoxi's bright eyes, the smile that was as vibrant as a spring flower on her face made him shiver in fear.

Yang Chen scratched the back of his head awkwardly. *How is this a 'greeting'? She's obviously trying to narrow her sights on her targets so that she can deal with them one by one in the future.*

Yang Chen couldn't let the conversation continue down this path. He felt that he should retreat now and reconsider possible options to attack this problem, so he changed the topic and said, "By the way, when I went to Hongyan's place today. I saw that their rice balls were very highly demanded, but they have no funds to expand their business. So I discussed with them whether we could invest in their rice balls and help them open up chain stores. Just treat it as us becoming a shareholder."

Lin Ruoxi glanced at Yang Chen shockingly. "To think that you would think about business matters."

Have I always seemed this useless?? Yang Chen's expression turned bitter. He said, "I just felt that it's pretty taxing for Hongyan to pay back that more than a million's worth of medical expenses. It's just an idea to help them out. We won't purchase over their secret recipe passed down by their ancestors. We'll just invest in them and help them open up more stores, then get the dividend from there. Aren't you planning to invest in a huge amount of entertainment and recreational industries? Those holiday resorts and playgrounds will surely need e snacks stores right? Glutinous rice balls would be a perfect fit for that."

Lin Ruoxi nodded. "It's not a bad suggestion, but Old Zhao has to agree to it first. After all, not everyone can make good glutinous rice balls. It'll require professionals to provide training so that the texture and taste will have its own distinctiveness. Elder Zhao has been unwilling to collaborate with others for quite awhile, mainly because he didn't trust those people. What makes you so sure this time will be any different?"

"He might not trust other people. But Babe Ruoxi you're the savior for Hongyan's family. Besides, do you even care about their secret recipe?" Yang Chen laughed.

Lin Ruoxi nodded, deep in her thoughts.

Yang Chen continued to encourage her by saying, "Ruoxi, think about it. In the future, your favorite glutinous rice balls can be found in every recreational site of Yu Lei International. The interiors could be decorated in pinkish and warm colors. Pictures of Hello Kitty painted on the walls. Two huge plasma wall-mounted televisions will hang from the wall, playing your favorite Korean dramas all day long. Korean can heard within the entire shop, like 'saranghaeyo', 'oppa' and the such. It'll be mandatory to play Korean dramas only! No music!

"No matter where you visit to supervise, you can be sure to get all the various types of multi-colored fresh glutinous rice balls you want. And to top it all off, it's not just any rice ball but ones from the Zhao family. And despite being the CEO, you would still go and eat glutinous rice balls with everyone else. It

would show how approachable you are, and everyone would praise you for being down to earth and easy-going. Think about all the possibilities that this potential venture might hold..."

At this point, Lin Ruoxi had already forgotten glutinous rice ball that she was holding in her hands. Diamond-like brightness filled her clear eyes. And her longing was apparent even without having to say anything.

After a while, Lin Ruoxi realized that she had blown her cool a little. She cleared her throat, and said with her face still slightly red, "It's up to me to decide how to renovate the shop. Don't you go thinking that you know everything about me. I'm a business person. As long as it's legal and profitable, of course I know what to do. I don't need you poking your nose in it."

Yang Chen knew that Lin Ruoxi had already been persuaded. So he nodded his head and said, "But of course, I was just offering my opinions. The main operations are still up to you, the CEO, to decide."

Lin Ruoxi said, "I will send Mingyu over to discuss this with Old Zhao and his family. If it's a deal, then we'll simulate its feasibility and do some market research. If that goes well, we'll start recruiting people to conduct training during the pre-release of the stores."

"If it does succeed, I think we can just forget about that more than a million yuan's worth of money that Hongyan owes. It isn't easy for her family to cope with it. Let's just treat it as the fund to purchase their shop title," Yang Chen suggested.

However, Lin Ruoxi refused the notion directly, saying, "Debts are debts. If we just clear it off so easily with some excuse, it would be disrespectful to Hongyan. What should be paid back must be paid back. Not a single cent more or less. As for other purchasing funds, we'll settle it separately."

Yang Chen pursed his lips. *Isn't it still the same outcome in the end? Just that when Ruoxi is on the matter of principles, she just doesn't care who it is she's facing.*

This long string of conversation finally wiped away that distance between the two of them again. Yang Chen heaved a sigh of relief. He counted the days—it was almost time to visit Beijing as he had promised Cai Yan, so he brought it up. "Ruoxi, I might be making a trip to Beijing in two days' time to handle some matters. I'm informing you in advance."

Lin Ruoxi asked, "Beijing? You're going home?"

Yang Chen was surprised. Lin Ruoxi was naturally referring to the Yang clan. He frowned and replied, "No, I have something else to do."

Lin Ruoxi replied with an 'oh', and carried on eating her rice balls silently.

"You're not interested to know what I will be doing there?" Yang Chen asked curiously.

Lin Ruoxi shook her head. "I'll be frustrated if I were to know. Might as well not know. You wouldn't listen to me anyway if I asked you not to go."

Yang Chen smiled. "Why are you suddenly so generous?"

Lin Ruoxi shot a glance at the man. "I'll let you have a few comfortable days. Wait till the one-year period is up as we promised, then you'll know how 'generous' I really am."

Yang Chen felt a chill up his back. Turns out that it was those 'conditions' that they had agreed upon that saved him back then.

It was already in the wee hours of morning. Lin Ruoxi still had no intention of calling it a day. Yang Chen chose not to interfere with her work any longer. He was about to get himself a sofa to lie down on when he found that his mobile phone had started vibrating.

Yang Chen found it odd. Who would call him at this hour, unless it was from overseas?

But when he picked the phone up to see, Yang Chen was shocked. It turned out to be Tang Tang's number. *Didn't that kid already return to Beijing Tang's family home with her mother?*

Yang Chen answered the call and asked, "Kid, what's up?"

On the other end of the phone, Tang Tang's voice was very soft, and it even sounded like she was sobbing. "Uncle... Mo—Mom... has been poisoned..."

Tang Wan is poisoned?!

It was as if a nuclear bomb had detonated in Yang Chen's brain. His face turned solemn. "What happened? Explain it in detail."

Lin Ruoxi who was at the side turned her gaze over, puzzled. As she saw that Yang Chen's face had suddenly turned extremely solemn, she was a little worried.

Chapter 628

Heading Up North

Everything began when Tang Wan brought Tang Tang back to Beijing.

Heeding the request of Master Tang, the crucial figures of the Tang clan had all gathered together to hold an internal family meeting. The meeting was held to clear up some of the unresolved conflicts and clean up the messy internal structure of their family.

Tang Wan and Tang Huang, being the main candidates for the future successor, were naturally the main topic of focus.

At the very end of the meeting, Master Tang Zhechen indicated that there were only so many years left he had which he could use to still manage the enormous family with a clear state of mind. Thus, he decided to use the following year to assess Tang Wan and Tang Huang.

Tang Huang was mainly in charge of the family business in the north, whereas Tang Wan was mainly in charge of the Jiangnan area. In the end, the growth percentage of their net profit would determine who should inherit the position of clan master.

Once this decision was made, it made the already secretly competitive and scheming situation between the two parties even more aggressive.

But both the figures in question chose to omit their input into the matter. They just agreed to come according to Tang Zhechen's decision, and they planned to resume work at their respective positions once the family meeting was over.

But the night before Tang Wan returned to Zhonghai, she suddenly fainted during the dinner ceremony!

The two parties of people within the Tang clan were slightly flustered. They hired doctors to diagnose Tang Wan's condition, yet the results returned as undetermined. All they knew was that some unknown virus had appeared within Tang Wan's body. The poison wouldn't kill one in the short term, but it would weaken all the organs significantly which could only result in death!

A virus like that is somewhat similar to HIV—reducing the strength of the body's immune system. Its aim was to make its victim extremely susceptible to minor illnesses.

Within the Tang clan, suddenly contracting a virus made all of the clan members realize that the situation was grave. Firstly, if there was someone willing to poison Tang Wan, it only made sense for the perpetrator to be a member of the clan. Looking at it from the motive to do so, Tang Huang's people were the most likely suspects. But precisely because of that, if it was truly Tang Huang who did it, then it would make them seem a little too impatient and cruel.

The second issue was that if Tang Wan had contracted such a virus, then was it contagious? Was it actually a type of virus like HIV?

A virus that even these professionals who had studied medicine could not recognize. Naturally it started to worry some of the members present. They were all seriously worried that they might have contracted the virus as well.

With these, Tang Wan, one of the candidates for the clan master who had been poisoned, immediately became quarantined as an 'agent of disease'. Even if Tang Wan's body was extremely weak, the entire family were not reckless enough to take care of her in fear of contracting the same thing. They just sent Tang Wan to the quarantine room in the hospital, and let the doctors and nurses wearing barrier gowns look after her.

As the matter had happened inside the Tang family, under everyone's eyes, the clan members thought of it as an ugly scandal. It was better for them to keep matters like these under wraps. They tried their best to suppress the news. While they were actively trying to cover up the information, they took Tang Wan's blood sample to the science institution to get it tested hoping to find a cure.

After hearing a vague outline of what happened, Yang Chen heaved a brief sigh of relief. At the very least, Tang Wan's life was not in danger now yet. He heard Tang Tang sob even harder. He said gently, "Kid, crying won't help solve anything. But such a big issue had happened, why did you call me only now?"

Tang Tang said softly, "I've wanted to call you since the beginning, Uncle. You could invite Miss Jane to cure great grandfather, surely you can help mom too. But... everyone in the family was worried that if anyone outside of the family were to learn of the news, it would affect the Tang clan's reputation. After Mom fell sick, my great grandfather's health has declined considerably. He has been resting at home, and he left all the matters to Uncle Tang Huang to handle. I've been looking for a chance to contact you but have had no such luck before this... I—I'm hiding under my blanket."

Yang Chen sneered. *Affect their reputation? What is one's reputation when it has been tainted by the blood of a family member? Situations within major clans are as deep as the ocean. Being born in such a*

clan is truly a misfortune. There are definitely some who're not letting Tang Wan receive any help deliberately. Even if they had not done it, they were probably hoping for her to just die like this.

Yang Chen couldn't let this matter drag on any longer than it already has. This time, things were different from previously when Master Tang had contracted 'hysteria'. No one knew how long Tang Wan could hold on for. Inviting Jane over from England would take some time. He had to go to Beijing personally to resolve this problem.

Fortunately, his cultivation had already achieved new heights during this period. Although he hadn't tried before, Yang Chen believed that he was capable of curing Tang Wan of her illness.

Although Tang Wan wasn't truly one of his women, their relationship had been wavering on a borderline. Besides, there were also the ties between him and Tang Tang, Yuan Ye and the likes. Of course he had to try his best to cure her.

However, this matter came rather suddenly. Yang Chen knew that he would have to break the promise that he had made with Cai Yan. He would be heading to Beijing in advance, so he could only wait till Cai Yan returned to Beijing to meet up with her.

After making Tang Tang rest assured and asking her to wait for him, Yang Chen hung up the phone. He could feel that Lin Ruoxi who was at the side was looking at him with complicated expressions, and he calmly smiled. "Seems like my plan to visit Beijing has to be brought forward."

Lin Ruoxi could roughly make out the contents of the conversation. She nodded her head and said, "Show mercy wherever possible. After all you won't be in Zhonghai, so you're not familiar with the place nor the people. If anything happens it would still be troublesome."

Yang Chen did not expect Lin Ruoxi to be the one to remind him of those things. He smiled and said, "I thought you would be angry with me for going to the Tang clan to look after Tang Wan."

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at him. "There's a difference in the priority and urgency of matters. I'm not an unreasonable shrew."

Yang Chen felt much more at ease. He immediately said, "Then go home and inform Mom and Wang Ma. I'll be leaving right away."

"Right now?" Lin Ruoxi was surprised.

Yang Chen nodded. "There's nothing for me to prepare anyway. So the earlier I leave, the better."

In fact, the most ideal method was to remove the seal, tear apart spacetime and travel to Beijing. It wasn't something Yang Chen couldn't do, but it was not something the world was ready for. Besides, Yang Chen felt there wasn't a need to be in such a hurry.

But Yang Chen was curious. Back then, Ling Xuzi and Yan Sanniang, experts who had surpassed Xiantian Full Cycle, had used a very mysterious mode of transportation. Though he was unsure of whether he had achieved a level as high as theirs, Yang Chen had a feeling that it wasn't as profound as it seemed. He just hadn't learnt of that technique yet.

Fortunately, since the poison that the other party had planted was to make Tang Wan's body grow weaker, they definitely had other plans for her. Therefore, Tang Wan wouldn't come to any harm in the next few days.

The method that Yang Chen chose to travel by was to book the earliest flight departing for Beijing. As for going home to pick up some clothes and identification documents, it was not an issue. He had merely done away with the time needed to say goodbye to his family.

Although Mo Qianni's matters had not been settled yet, it was something Yang Chen could hold off until he got back.

Before he boarded the plane, Yang Chen made a phone call to Cai Yan. Cai Yan who was still in bed, was awoken abruptly from her dreams. She scolded him adorably, but upon hearing that Yang Chen was going to Beijing so suddenly, she was dumbfounded.

Luckily Cai Yan was no child and required no explanation. She just made an appointment to meet him after a few days in Beijing readily.

Next, Yang Chen sent out text messages to An Xin, Liu Mingyu and Rose successively. He didn't have all these minute chores to do in the past, but now that he was moving forward with a newfound look on his relationships, it only seemed right to do so.

The most important thing was sending a text message to Mo Qianni to make her rest at ease. He would naturally settle the matters between the two of them upon returning from Beijing.

Unexpectedly, a phone call came from Liu Mingyu right before he left. She asked, "Hubby, my dad just happened to have brought some people with him back to Beijing. If you haven't arranged for any transportation yet, I'm sure I can get my dad to arrange it on your behalf."

Liu Qingshan had been gravely angered by Yang Chen at Zhonghai, so it was no surprise that he had returned to Beijing. Yang Chen rejected her, saying, "Forget about it. Your dad would only get more upset if he were to see me now. I have my own plans. Babe Mingyu can stop her worrying."

"Alright..." Liu Mingyu was slightly disappointed, knowing that Yang Chen had no intention to rectify his relationship with Liu Qingshan.

After a while, it was time for Yang Chen to board his plane. He had booked business class seats just so that he could have a good sleep. Besides, it wasn't like he lacked the money to do so.

After settling into the leather made seat, Yang Chen smiled at the corner of his mouth. It was because a male and a female approached from his left and sat on the seats next to him without a word.

They were Sky Dragon and Ye Zi.

"I knew it. You two would definitely follow me to Beijing. Hehe, you know that I am a total stranger to that place. Remember to arrange my food, accommodation and necessities. By the way, make sure that the car that picks me up is a comfortable one. I like wide cars. It would be best for you to arrange a business car," Yang Chen said long-windedly.

Sky Dragon and Ye Zi looked at each other and let out a bitter smile. Yang Chen was basically ordering them, members of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, around as though they were his nannies. Yet, they

couldn't find reasons to reject the 'simple and honest' requests of his. Speaking of which, as long as Yang Chen's movements were within their area of surveillance, there was no reason not to let him have his way.

"Actually, ever since we reported to the headquarters, the general made sure that we followed you throughout your Beijing trip. So Yang Chen, you can be rest assured that even if it's for our own sake, we would receive you properly," Sky Dragon said as he wanted to salvage some of his face.

Yang Chen paid no attention to him at all. He lifted his head backwards, shut his eyes and started to fall asleep, making Sky Dragon glare at him in a fit.

Ten minutes later, the plane departed, disappearing into the night sky.

Chapter 629

Guard and Receptionist

As the sun rose over Beijing, its warm rays bathed the peaceful and quiet city. Under the grey sky, the blinking street lights and the various skyscrapers contrasted with the traditional, ancient city.

While all this was going on, in a 5-star hotel located in the city of Beijing, the presidential suite was dimly lit. However, the atmosphere inside that room severely contrasted with the rest of the city. There was not a moment of peace.

A woman's soft, rapid breathing was occasionally interrupted by streams of painful shouting. But there was more to it than just screams of pain. Her painful cries were flooding with a sense of fatigue as if she were to pass out at any second.

The whole room was buzzing with lust, and the scent of her rose perfume together with the smell of hormones filled the area.

Suddenly, a pained scream escaped through her lips, followed by a sob. Then, everything became still once again.

Body fluids were scattered all over the white bed sheet covering the fluffy and soft mattress. The woman's naked body was leaning against a muscular guy.

The man was as handsome as he was naked. He grabbed the woman like a toy in one hand while the other reached across the wooden cupboard for his pungent, alcoholic drink.

The smell of the strong beverage made the woman scrunch up her nose in disgust, but she did not dare complain.

"That thing. How's the progress?" asked the man while gulping down a mouthful of alcohol. His expressions did not change in the slightest.

The sleepy woman raised her head at hearing these words. She felt extremely exhausted after exercising the whole night. However, she instantly became wide awake after the man spoke.

A sweet, delicate face turned towards the man. It was the daughter of the Tang clan's third eldest son, who was also Tang Wan's cousin—Tang Xin!

“Tang Wan had been ushered into the hospital after she got poisoned. Grandpa is resting at home. He seems to have contracted some sort of mental shock. He let Tang Huang handle everything now. The clan is a complete mess now,” laughed Tang Xin.

The man’s face looked much colder. “Now, who do they suspect?”

Tang Xin chuckled mischievously. “Those idiots believe that it was Tang Huang’s doing. Of course, those who support him have no reason to voice out otherwise. The ones that are on Tang Wan’s side dared not show their faces either. It won’t take long for the Tang clan to fall apart.”

“Hmph,” snorted the man with contempt.

A hint of hesitation flashed across Tang Xin’s eyes. She questioned, “Buwen, are you going to kill everyone in the Tang clan? After it has ended?”

The man was Yan Buwen from the Yan clan!

“Kill them? Why?” asked Yan Buwen.

Tang Xin shook her head. “I’m only asking. You know I will support you in whatever you do.”

Her eyes were filled with obsession. It was as if the man was her everything.

But Yan Buwen did not care about how she felt. He threw his glass onto the carpet and slapped her hard on her backside. The slap rang out across the room.

“Get up. You need to go back home and keep an eye on everything that goes on in that house,” said Yan Buwen coolly.

Tang Xin got up slowly. “You tortured me the whole night. Can’t you spare me a few minutes in your arms?”

“Why? You think I’m mistreating you?” asked Yan Buwen coldly.

Tang Xin’s face paled and she shook her head rapidly. “No, I... I didn’t mean that. I’ll leave now.”

She lifted herself up despite the aching all over her body. She then picked her clothes up from the carpeted floor and put them on, peering at the now resting man.

Once dressed, she pursed her lips and asked, “Buwen, you’ll marry me once everything is over, right?”

Yan Buwen opened his eyes and took a glance at her. He grunted, in response to her.

This obscure answer had made her eyes gleam with passion. She bit her lips, lunged towards him, and planted a soft kiss against his mouth. She then reluctantly left the presidential suite.

After the door snapped shut, Yan Buwen laughed like a lunatic.

“Do you expect me to marry a mad bitch? Hmph, the only woman for me is that goddess...”

... ..

In the backyard of the Yang clan’s military camp in Beijing, a piece of paper was laid out on top of a stone table, the ink placed at the side.

Yang Gongming held up his Chinese writing brush and glided it across the surface of the paper. He was wearing a blouse, standing before the table early in the morning.

After a few short minutes, Yan Sanniang trudged across the garden towards him. She balanced a tray of food on her palms, smiling sweetly. She placed it on the table while carefully observing Yang Gongming's actions.

He continued writing for around ten minutes before putting the pen down.

He turned sideways towards Yan Sanniang and smiled at her. "Sanniang, my penmanship is getting worse."

"This one couldn't tell," said Sanniang smilingly.

"I'm getting old. My hands are shaking. And to think, I used to be able to hold up a machine gun without any difficulty. Now, I can't even hold my pen properly. Time really has been my greatest enemy," exclaimed Yang Gongming.

Yan Sanniang's eyes looked desolate for a second, but she quickly recovered and smiled. "Although your hands are trembling, your penmanship seemed to have ascended to another level."

Yang Gongming waved his hand without saying anything. He walked over to the tray of food and took a few bites. He then asked, "The kid Yang Chen has arrived, hasn't he?"

She nodded. "Yes, I was told that he took a midnight flight here. He should be touching down right about now."

"The incident with the Tang clan seems a little suspicious. Anyway, they are the most significant one out of the four major clans. When things become serious, we can't just sit idly by and watch as chaos descends. I assume the Li clan and the Ning clan are well aware of the situation as well," said Yang Gongming faintly. "It'd be best if Yang Chen could save the day. But if he can't, you'd better check it out, Sanniang. You might be our last hope."

Yan Sanniang grunted. "Master, please be reassured. Miss Tang is safe, for now."

"That granddaughter of Tang Zhechen is quite an excellent choice for Yang Chen, though she's in a different generation from him. What a missed opportunity," he sighed.

Smiling, Yan Sanniang replied, "Master Chen already has multiple women around him. Had it not been for the change in culture as time passed, I wouldn't have allowed something like this to exist."

Yang Gongming laughed out loud for a while. He said, "Let him be. I'm getting too old to interfere. Might as well pretend I know nothing. He can do whatever he likes. It's his competence that draw women to him. However, there is no way we can accept each and everyone of them into the clan."

"Master seems very confident that Master Chen would come back," said Yan Sanniang curiously.

Yang Gongming shook his head. "I'm not. I'm just preparing for that to happen."

While talking, he pointed his finger at the paper. He said, "Sanniang, please keep an eye out for Yang Chen during his stay here. Many people have caught wind of his arrival, more people than I'd like. Let me know if anything happens to him. Give that piece of writing to him whenever possible."

Her eyes swept across the now-drying, inked paper, and agreed.

At the same time, Yang Chen felt his nose itch while walking out of the airport's arrival hall with Sky Dragon Ye Zi at his side.

"Damn it. Why do so many people miss me?" muttered Yang Chen to himself. He swung his head left and right then asked, "Hey Sky Dragon, where's our driver? Time is money, you know."

Sky Dragon sighed depressingly and pointed at the black Infiniti QX56 SUV parked not too far from them. "It's right there. Why would I waste your 'precious' time?"

Satisfied, Yang Chen nodded his head and gave Sky Dragon's shoulders a pat. "Good service. I'll let General Cai know and give you a pay rise."

Ye Zi pursed his lips. "Brother Yang, we don't get paid."

"What?!" exclaimed Yang Chen. "I pity all the members of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade. You're not getting paid for risking your lives? Tsk tsk, nevermind. If you end up quitting one day, you can come to me. I still need a guard and a receptionist for my entertainment company."

When he was done talking, Yang Chen started trudging towards the SUV. Laughing, he ignored Sky Dragon's pale and sickly face before entering the car.

Chapter 630

Suck It

Tang Wan was at the first regional military hospital in Beijing, which was usually only used by VIP's of the country. Of course, the medical standards and facilities were quite advanced.

Yang Chen was not familiar with getting about Beijing. He had memorised the maps of almost all the countries in the world, including those of major cities. But ironically, he was completely lost in his hometown.

Therefore, Yang Chen simply let Sky Dragon and Ye Zi lead the way. He sat in the car, quietly waiting to reach his destination. There was no reason why these two people would not help him.

Indeed, to the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, for Yang Chen to return to Zhonghai as soon as possible was of utmost importance. Yang Chen only wanted to save a life, which was not a conflict of interest to them. If they were willing to help him out as much as possible now, they might end up in his good graces.

Beijing was not without its faults. There seemed to be a never-ending jam in that city. The car drove for nearly two hours before it finally arrived at the military hospital.

After getting off the car, Yang Chen let the two lead the way. They walked all the way to the hospital, and went to the ward area.

In addition to doctors and nurses, there were also strangers and familiar figures in the lounge outside of the intensive care unit.

Seated in a wheelchair, Tang Zhechen was being pushed by his granddaughter Tang Xin. He stared soullessly into the isolation ward, where Tang Wan was lying in bed.

Tang Tang who was always quite the cheery soul, looked as though she had aged a few years since the incident. Wearing a dull-coloured dress with floral-prints, she too, stood outside the ward in a daze.

As for other men and women in suits or work suits, they stood in sadness beside Master Tang as if they were consoling him.

Yang Chen entered the place with Sky Dragon and Ye Zi, all of whom weren't recognized by most of the people there. Some of them frowned a little, ignoring their presence.

Surprisingly, Tang Xin turned around, pleasantly surprised. She said, "Mr Yang! There you are!"

Tang Zhechen and Tang Tang turned around simultaneously. Tang Tang's eyes went red, and she rushed to Yang Chen's embrace before tearing up.

Yang Chen sighed and patted Tang Tang on her back, realizing that she had lost a little weight. "Look at you. Why did you wait until I come before you start crying? Couldn't you have exhausted all your tears before I arrived?"

Tang Tang lifted her head. Teary eyed, she said, "How could you be so shameless? Everyone else is so worried!"

"Alright, alright. Let's not make things more confusing for other people. You are still my sister-in-law." Yang Chen laughed.

Tang Tang realized that she was making a scene in front of everyone. She immediately jumped back and stuck her tongue out. "Who are you calling your sister-in-law? I haven't decided to marry that log-head yet."

Yang Chen mourned for Yuan Ye and turned around to nod at Tang Zhechen. "Do you mind if I go in and have a look, Master Tang?"

Tang Zhechen nodded hopefully. "Yang Chen, I'm really sorry that you have to come again. I thought it'd be rude to bother you so often, hence my restraint from calling you. I didn't expect you to show up. It must've been Tang Tang that called you here. "

Yang Chen sucked his lips. "Geez old man, you can drop the act. If you really didn't want me here, would you have given Tang Tang a chance to call me?"

Tang Zhechen grinned without denying what Yang Chen said. To be honest, he really wanted to ask Yang Chen for help. But a number of people within the clan objected against it, claiming that the incident should be contained within the family. Besides, Tang Wan was single. It would not be appropriate for her to spend so much time with a stranger to their family who was married no less.

Although Tang Zhechen was the head of the clan, he could not afford to bring down their name and Tang Wan's reputation. So, he resorted to using Tang Tang to break the news to Yang Chen.

The people started to whisper among themselves. They did not know where this young man came from and how he knew Master Tang so well. But they dared not ask, seeing as Tang Zhechen had no intentions of introducing him.

“Teacher, please do take care of your health. We shall be taking our leave.” An unfamiliar man bowed respectfully to Tang Zhechen.

Tang Zhechen nodded. “You may all leave now. I will remember your kindness.”

Slowly but surely, people started trickling out of the ward until there were only a handful of people remaining. When passing by Yang Chen, they would subconsciously steal a few glances at him.

Tang Zhechen waited until others left before explaining to Yang Chen. “When I was still in the world of politics, I was the principal of the Central Party School. These are all my former students. Although what happened to Tang Wan was not publicized, there is nothing that these people cannot find out. The news has reached the top-levels in the political arena while most of them had already caught wind of this incident. In response, they decided to visit us to show their sincerity. Rest assured, their intentions are pure.”

Yang Chen suddenly realized this, but Tang Zhechen’s explanation also shed new light on the strength of the Tang clan. He did not believe that these people were just reminiscing their past. It seemed that although Tang Zhechen had retired from the political arena, his influence was still as strong as it was in the past. If not, why else would these people be here to ‘support’ him?

However, it was hard to understand how the Tang clan came to be one of the four dominant clans even though all they did was operating businesses.

But this was not important to Yang Chen at the moment. He went directly to the door with an electronic lock at the isolation ward and asked the nurse beside him, “What’s the password?”

The nurse with a mask and raised her eyebrows. “Who are you? This isn’t some place where anyone can just go in and out. The patient inside is infected by an unknown virus. Even our medical staff are required to wear protective suit before we are able to get in.”

“You can rest assured, Miss. There are so many people watching us here,” Yang Chen said with a smile. “Just tell me the password. No harm will come to you should an incident occur.”

Before coming to Beijing, Lin Ruoxi told him to ‘be forgiving and thus be forgiven’. Yang Chen was not upset by the nurse’s stern tone. All he could do was be polite.

A middle-aged doctor who had been standing nearby came up and said, “Excuse me, this is an intensive care isolation ward. Even the patient’s family members are not allowed to enter if they are not part of the medical staff. Please do not make things difficult for us.”

Yang Chen had to look at Tang Zhechen and let him help him to say a good word or two.

Tang Zhechen, in response, said politely, “Doctor, this young man has excellent medical skills. If you could just make an exception and allow him go in to see my granddaughter in a protective suit, I’d appreciate that.”

This doctor was not oblivious to underlying cues. Once Tang Zhechen had spoken, he would not be so stupid to be stubborn. Besides, he would not have to bear any responsibilities since Yang Chen was the one who asked for it.

As for Yang Chen's proclaimed medical skills, the doctor thought that only fools would believe that.

Finally, the doctor had the nurse take Yang Chen to the dressing room to change his clothes.

Yang Chen felt annoyed. It was so troublesome to enter a ward. *Why is it called 'intensive care'? It is clearly 'intensive trouble'!*

After a series of complicated examinations, Yang Chen was finally given clearance to enter the ward Tang Wan was in.

Although the middle-aged doctor was not liable for anything that was about to happen, he was still worried about the reckless things that Yang Chen might do. So he stuck by Yang Chen's side the entire time.

Yang Chen didn't care too much about it. As he went close to Tang Wan's bed, he could clearly see Tang Wan's condition, causing his heart to ache.

Tang Wan's snow-white complexion had many fingernail-sized red and black patches. Her face was pale without any hint of life. Her chapped lips looked dry, while her silky black hair had also turned slightly yellowish...

If it was not clear to him that it was Tang Wan who was lying on that bed, Yang Chen would never believe that such a beautiful and well-behaved mature woman had to endure a fate so tragic...

Just what kind of poison could make that woman suffer so much?

"Sigh... Up to now, the people in the institution have not been able to identify the origin and nature of this virus. The patient's heart rate and various vitals have indicated that she is still in a stable condition. But stable doesn't mean anything if this issue persists. And if this goes on, sooner or later the toxin will invade the brain and bone marrow..." The doctor sighed helplessly.

Tang Wan seemed to notice that someone was approaching. She struggled to open her eyes. If it was not for the weird patches on her face, she would still be a beautiful and elegant person. With or without makeup. But now, like a pearl covered with dust, she had lost her brilliance.

Although Yang Chen was wearing a mask, Tang Wan was able to recognize him, her dim eyes overflowed with renewed hope.

"Am... I... ugly..." Bitter words slipped out from the corner of Tang Wan's dried lips in self-mockery.

Yang Chen did not speak, but took off the leather protective gloves off his right hand, and proceeded to take off his mask.

The doctor was shocked as he watched Yang Chen. "What are you doing? Put it back on! This virus may be highly contagious!"

Yang Chen did not care at all. He reached out his hand to Tang Wan's cheek without a sign of hesitation and caressed her face gently. Her once-delicate skin was now rough and wrinkly.

Yang Chen raised an eyebrow and laughed. He said, "If I were to call you beautiful now, wouldn't you just think I am lying to you?"

Tang Wan smiled grimly, and nodded slightly.

The doctor beside him couldn't help but yell angrily, "Are you even listening to me?!"

Yang Chen ignored him. He pressed his finger on Tang Wan's wrist lightly as if he was measuring her pulse.

After a short while, Yang Chen turned around and made several gestures to Sky Dragon and Ye Zi who were standing outside the isolation ward through the window.

Tang Zhechen, Tang Xin, and the nurses were all confused by this gesture. They could not understand what Yang Chen was signalling. But Sky Dragon and Ye Zi looked at each other and nodded to Yang Chen as if they agreed to something.

Suspecting something, the curious Tang Xin asked Ye Zi, "Sister, what did Mr Yang mean?"

Ye Zi explained, "What Brother Yang did was a sign language commonly used by the navy. He wishes to let everyone here evacuate as he wants to perform treatment for Tang Wan alone."

"Treatment? So does this mean Yang Chen has a way to cure Tang Wan?!" Tang Zhechen could not contain his excitement.

Tang Tang was also overjoyed, unable to speak as a result.

Not waiting for the people to react, Yang Chen had kicked the doctor out of the ward quite literally.

The doctor in turn, was very angry. How could these people be so rude to him in his own territory? But before he was able to swear, he saw a familiar document fall before his eyes.

Again, Sky Dragon took out his security bureau badge, and began to help Yang Chen evacuate the people outside.

It was a military hospital, so all the doctors and nurses had gone through special training. They were quite familiar with badges and emblems of various national departments.

When he knew that they were from the security bureau, the doctor immediately calmed down. These people were not ordinary law enforcement officers. They were special agents from the central government. He dared not offend Sky Dragon at all. Besides, Tang Zhechen had given them his approval. What else could he do but let them be?

Soon, the group of doctors and nurses together with Tang Zhechen left the intensive care unit behind Tang Xin and Tang Tang. Sky Dragon and Ye Zi closed the door before guarding the area.

When the coast was clear, Yang Chen looked around again and found a surveillance camera in a corner. With a single flick of his finger, the camera was shattered by the sheer force of his internal energy.

While all this was happening, Tang Wan was still laid, weak on the hospital bed. She watched Yang Chen as he did all this. Although very curious, she did not waste energy to ask any questions. She was confident in Yang Chen, so she placed her trust in him.

“Well, it’s time for your treatment. If done successfully, you will get better soon. But, you have to cooperate with me,” Yang Chen said with a smile.

Tang Wan answered softly, “I believe you... How... do I... cooperate?”

Yang Chen did not continue. He stretched out his index finger and scratched it with his right fingertip.

A streak of red fluid appeared from the index finger. It was the blood flowing from Yang Chen’s cut finger.

Yang Chen sent the bleeding index finger to Tang Wan’s dry lips, disregarding her astonishment. He said with a smirk, “Well, to cooperate with me, you will need to suck my finger obediently. You will have to suck it with all your strength...”

Chapter 631

Well-Known

The intensive care unit was soon vacated, with the exceptions of Sky Dragon and Ye Zi who were guarding the ward.

Tang Xin finally broke the silence. She couldn’t help but ask, “Grandpa, can Mr Yang really heal Elder Sister? This poison seems to be more fatal than the one you previously had. Don’t you think we should ask Miss Jane for help instead?”

Tang Zhechen closed his eyes and sighed. In a deep voice he said, “Miss Jane is a highly skilled individual. However, she is currently in England. Waiting for her arrival should we call her, might take too long considering the type of poison we are dealing with. Besides, Ms Jane’s methods, while effective, require too much time to execute. Therefore, asking her for help will be our last resort.”

“But can Mr Yang really heal Elder Sister?” Tang Xin asked with sparkling eyes, while biting her lower lip.

Tang Tang answered, “Don’t worry. Uncle definitely can do it. I know for a fact that he is highly skilled himself!”

Tang Zhechen turned his head and looked at his agitated great-granddaughter. He asked, “Tang Tang, answer me honestly. Are you mad at me?”

Tang Tang paused for a second. She shook her head and said, “Great Grandpa... Why do you ask?”

Tang Zhechen held Tang Tang’s hand gently and replied, “Ever since you were born, you have lived with your mother in the south. Never once have I ever taken care of the both of you. Now that your mom brought you here to Beijing, an incident like this happened to her. I blame only myself for my incompetence.”

Tang Tang lowered her head and said, "I know that this isn't your fault and you didn't have a choice. Also, Mom has always told me that if it wasn't for you, both of us would be dead. I am more than grateful that you have accepted me as your great-granddaughter."

Tang Zhechen laughed and said, "Why would I not accept you? You're Tang Wan's daughter. Her real daughter. So you're clearly my great-granddaughter. It is impossible for me to not accept you."

"Bu—but I am just a..." Tang Tang wasn't able to finish her sentence while clenching her teeth.

"So what if you're a test tube baby? It's not like you are the only one to exist. I am not that close-minded." Tang Zhechen patted her hand and said, "Tang Tang, don't worry. Your mother will recover. It is only a matter of time before I pass on the Tang clan to her and she will pass it you in the future. Besides, no one can stop this from happening."

Tang Tang wasn't the only one who was startled by what her great-grandfather said. Tang Xin who stood behind the wheelchair was surprised too.

The Tang Clan was in a state of disarray because Tang Zhechen never announced his successors. *I can't believe what he just said. It is not like him to simply joke about matters like this one. Also, I don't think claiming that Tang Tang will be his future successor is necessary to comfort her,* Tang Xin thought.

Agitated, Tang Xin lowered her head and clenched her teeth.

"But Great Grandpa, I... I only know how to fool around. I don't know how to run a business," Tang Tang answered while shaking her head. Even though she wasn't experienced in this field, she was still aware of the volatile state of her clan. After hearing what Tang Zhechen said, she was terrified at her future prospects.

"Don't worry, your mom and I will still be here to guide you when the time comes. All you have to do is believe in me. Our Tang Tang will be the most ideal successor," Tang Zhechen answered with a smile, as if he had anticipated the future.

Sky Dragon and Ye Zi were positioned nearby so they heard the conversation between the three people. However, they were outsiders to this matter and therefore were uninterested with the politics within major clans. Therefore, they didn't pay much attention to what was said.

After Tang Zhechen comforted Tang Tang, he said to Tang Xin who was behind him, "Xin'er, thank you for taking care of me when I was sick. Now that your sister has been poisoned, you are given the responsibility of taking care for the both of us. You're indeed the most obedient among all my grandchildren."

Tang Xin shook her head and answered while smiling awkwardly, "Grandpa, it is my responsibility to take care of everyone. My capabilities do not extend as far as my Elder Sister's. This is the least I can do for the clan."

"Everyone has their own strengths. I doubt your sister is able to take care of me like how you did." Tang Zhechen smiled and said, "You're not that young anymore. I promise that I will find you someone who will care for you like you have for me. I will not let you down after all you've done for me."

"Grandpa, I'm willing to serve you," Tang Xin said earnestly.

Tang Zhechen sighed and replied, "I know that you're very kind and obedient. But I am disappointed whenever I see those despicable people who are part of our clan."

After hearing what Tang Zhechen said, both Tang Xin and Tang Tang were at a lost for words. After Tang Wan was intoxicated, the Tang clan's members only visited her once or twice; no one cared about her like family should. They were only thinking about how to divide up the shares of the Maple Group once Tang Wan was officially dead.

Tang Zhechen was disappointed but he knew clearly that this would happen even during his hospital admission. He had more visits from previous students and friends than he did family members.

At that exact moment, footsteps could be heard approaching them from the outside. They were heavy in their step and gave off a domineering aura.

A young muscular man and two fit men dressed in military uniforms arrived outside the unit accompanying the footsteps.

The young man in a blue short-sleeve shirt had maize-coloured skin and a stubble. His most distinguishing feature though was the eye patch that he wore, reminiscent to the pirates in western films. Moreover, he had an extraordinary aura which made him more intimidating.

Due to his unique aura, even people with muscular physiques wouldn't fight him despite of his wiry body.

Tang Zhechen was puzzled after seeing the three unfamiliar men. He eliminated the possibility of them being his students as most of his students were not quite as young as this man.

Tang Xin and Tang Tang had never seen them before so they just continued to look on with curiosity.

On the contrary, Sky Dragon and Ye Zi were surprised—they clearly knew these three men.

The young man walked up to Tang Zhechen and smiled nonchalantly. He said loudly with his rough voice that sounded similar to a rural folk, "You must be Tang Zhechen from the Tang clan. My name is Li Dun. Upon my return Beijing, I heard that Tang Wan was diagnosed with an illness. Unfortunately, my grandfather and father were not able to make it so I took it upon myself to make the trip on their behalf."

Li Dun?!? Tang Zhechen thought.

Tang Zhechen immediately realised who the young man was. The young man and Yan Buwen were jointly recognised as the 'Beijing King Duo'. Li Dun's difference with Yan Buwen was his outstanding capabilities and unsurpassed achievements on the battlefield.

Li Dun was more well-known due to his missions at borders and abroad. Even though his name was well-known in Beijing, very few had actually seen his face. Yan Buwen, who rarely showed up for public occasions, was more recognized than Li Dun.

Tang Zhechen quickly realised that it was indeed Li Dun who had come. On the other hand, Tang Tang who had heard about Li Dun before was amused, whereas Tang Xin held an unknown dislike towards Li Dun.

Li Dun focused on Tang Xin after noticing her disdain.

“Pretty lady, did I offend you?” Li Dun asked with a grin.

Tang Xin was taken aback by Li Dun’s question. She forced a smile to hide her indignant and answered awkwardly, “That’s odd Mr Li. This is our first time meeting. You don’t know me well enough to offend me.”

Li Dun asked without hesitation, “But why are you filled with anger and disdain when you look at me then?”

Tang Xin was shocked. *He realized that I was annoyed? How is that possible??* she thought.

Tang Zhechen squinted his eyes and said, “I’ve heard from Li Moshen that his dear grandson has a tremendous power of observation that can sense the slightest emotional change. I am quite surprised to see that for once. The rumors match reality.”

“Thank you sir. It is just a habit of mine to observe and grasp an idea of people in front of me. It is an occupational disease for me to plan ahead.”

This helped Tang Xin out of her embarrassing situation. She patted her chest and lowered head to avoid making eye contact with Li Dun.

Nonetheless, Li Dun peeked at Tang Xin while thinking, *Why is she mad at me even though we have never met?*

Tang Zhechen smirked and said, “According to what I know about you, you dislike unnecessary meet ups with people. So I highly doubt the purpose of your visit to be for my granddaughter.”

Li Dun laughed and answered truthfully, “Since Mr Tang has chosen to be straightforward, I shall not hide too. I was carrying out missions in Vietnam for the past half a year. Within two days of my return to Beijing, I heard that there’s an interesting opponent who is from Zhonghai. I was interested in challenging him two years ago but did not get the chance to do so. Now that he is here in Beijing, I will not miss this opportunity.”

“I knew it. You’re here for Yang Chen,” Tang Zhechen laughed while shaking his head.

Meanwhile Tang Xin and Tang Tang were confused. They thought, *Is Yang Chen really that well-known?*

Chapter 632

Li Dun

Sky Dragon and Ye Zi were terrified by what Li Dun had in mind. Wasn’t he just provoking an already volatile matter? Why would he choose Yang Chen over everyone else? Couldn’t he see that everyone was doing their part in keeping Yang Chen at bay?

Right at this moment, Li Dun noticed the two of them guarding the hospital ward. Even though they might just be acquaintances, under the overarching circle of the security bureau, they were not strangers.

Li Dun smirked at Sky Dragon and Ye Zi. “I guess I’m in the right place. Yang Chen should be inside.”

Sky Dragon frowned. "Master Li, I am very sure that you are aware of Yang Chen's situation. He isn't just a person you can pick a fight with."

"Of course I know he is different. That is the only reason I am here," Li Dun replied in a monotonous voice, "Don't worry, Brother. I will take responsibility of my actions and explain to my grandfather about it."

Sky Dragon and Ye Zi disheartenedly stared at one another. Under Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, they might be considered as self-sufficient, but in this country where power was concentrated, they were after all within the jurisdiction of Li Moshen. As a result, Li Dun's actions were out of their control.

Sky Dragon carefully observed Li Dun, his eyes flickered with glimpses of suspicion. Li Dun and Sky Dragon might not have crossed paths, but the rumours about him being a prodigy in martial arts was starting to show when Sky Dragon himself was unable to fathom Li Dun despite his years of experience.

Sky Dragon's ability in the Group of Eight was second only to the Abbess Yun Miao, and he notably had a conspicuous presence within Yellow Flame Iron Brigade. But even Sky Dragon was clear that Yang Chen was leaps and bounds above himself; even Yang Chen's brother Yang Lie had a cultivation level superior to his.

Now that he met Li Dun, Sky Dragon couldn't help but feel bitter at himself. Perhaps, it was about time he passed on the baton he had held onto all his life to the younger generation.

Li Dun was obviously uninterested with Sky Dragon, despite the latter having a powerful presence in the Group of Eight. But he was not in a hurry to fight Yang Chen either. So, he resorted to patiently waiting outside the ward.

Seeing how Li Dun was bursting with confidence, Tang Zhechen gave a glimpse of approval, believing that this young man regardless of his actual ability had already surpassed many youngsters of his age in terms of manners and temperament.

After half an hour, the entire corridor still remained dead silent. Right when Tang Tang couldn't hold her anxiety anymore, the ward door opened!

Everyone watched closely as Yang Chen lazily dragged himself out of the ward. His body appeared stiff as he flexed his muscles and yawned. It looked like he had just awoken from a nap.

Tang Zhechen amidst his worries cracked a smile. If Yang Chen was acting so relaxed, his granddaughter would definitely be in stable condition!

As for Li Dun, he immediately sat up in anticipation over the mere presence of Yang Chen.

"Uncle! Is Mom alright?!" Tang Tang sprinted up to Yang Chen and pleaded as she held his hands tight.

Yang Chen pointed back in to the room with his thumb. "Why don't you go in and take a look yourself?"

Tang Tang nodded and almost instantaneously jolted into the ward. Ear-shattering screams of joy subsequently resonated from within.

"Mom!"

Tang Zhechen was also extremely anxious as he hinted for Tang Xin to take him in. After taking an embarrassingly long time to get the hint, she pushed Tang Zhechen's wheelchair into the ward.

Inside, Tang Wan who was previously lying down had sat up. Her languished appearance was now replaced with a newly found vigour.

She looked just like someone who had returned from their morning workout. Slightly tired but only covered in sweat and redness on her face.

Her rejuvenation had achieved the extent of seemingly age reversing effects, as she retained the moist and supple skin she once had when she was in her teens. Her soft and smooth appearance would be the envy of many women.

Tang Tang hurled herself into Tang Wan's embrace, weeping tears of joy. Tang Wan, in response, gently stroked her back with the warmth only a mother could provide.

"Alright, alright. Mom's fine. My beloved Tang Tang has been really brave. Don't let a few tears ruin your brave streak." Tang Wan was comforting her pre-college daughter just like how one would towards a three-year-old.

It is probably true when people say that a child will never grow up in the eyes of their mother.

To the others present, they seemed like more of sisters than mother and daughter.

"What... did you do? How... is that even possible?" Sky Dragon who was at the door witnessed the scene, and he couldn't help but question Yang Chen's remarkable antics.

Tang Zhechen, Tang Xin, and the rest stared blindly at Yang Chen in astonishment. They had simply witnessed a miracle.

Tang Wan was previously on the brink of death, was miraculously brought back to life in the span of half an hour. Not only that, she looked as gorgeous as ever. What greatness was bestowed upon her?

Yang Chen on his end however, did not do anything over the top. He had Tang Wan consume small amounts of his own blood, countering any toxins that might've been added into her body. The True Qi of Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture within his blood helped to unclog her meridians.

Yang Chen had zero knowledge regarding medicine, so all he needed to do was to unclog her meridians and 'wash' the impurities clean! It was also fitting that the concept of the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture was to cleanse the toxins clumped in her body while simultaneously repair all the damage done. All this meant that her body was restructured inside out!

This was exactly what the forefathers meant when they said a person was 'reborn'. It was an act a casual master wouldn't dare to think about doing—it was no different from thoroughly connecting one's meridians!

Yang Chen however was not quite sure about how it was achieved. It was actually rather frustrating that no one could provide him with advice. But one thing was for sure—he knew he couldn't have cured Tang Wan in such little time prior to his cultivation elevation.

The truth was that if the current Tang Wan wanted to train her internal energy, she would progress rapidly now that her meridians were unobstructed. She would be able to gain permanent protection of her meridians.

But it was also worth stating that by using an external power to unblock one's meridians, the receiver would be granted a lift in cultivation. There was a hidden clause however, which would be that the stage of cultivation of the giver would have to be of a certain level. Otherwise, to complete the same task, they would need more than a handful of masters to achieve it.

"In no means would I want to keep it a secret from you, but it's rather complicated to explain and I'm not too sure myself." Yang Chen could if he wanted to, but it would be a hassle to get into the technicalities, which he believed would get himself worked up for nothing. As it was, he was already quite confused as to the way this stage of cultivation worked.

Tang Zhechen regardless, was satisfied with the outcome. "According to customs, I should repay you well for your help. But since my granddaughter's pretty close to you, I suppose we can just call it a favor."

Yang Chen was irked at how cunning this old fox was. Even though he really did not expect any appreciation for his deed, it was still unbelievable that Tang Zhechen actually took to mention it.

Right around this time, Li Dun who had been silently brooding at a corner came up to Yang Chen and said, "This is our first time meeting. I'm Li Dun."

The name rang a bell in Yang Chen's head, he shifted his focus a little before he recalled that there seemed to be a guy named Li Dun who was part of the 'Beijing King Duo'. He also happened to be the eldest grandson of the Li clan.

"Are you the Li Dun from the Li clan?" Yang Chen lifted the edges of his lips for a smile as he shook Li Dun's hand.

"The one and only." Li Dun was smiling proudly. "It seems Mr Yang is aware of my background."

Wow, speak of the devil. I was just stressing about solving the troublesome case for Cai Ning, now a member of the clan actually came up to me on his own!? Yang Chen thought.

"I previously heard it from the nutty Tang Jue when he mentioned you," Yang Chen replied. Now that he thought about it, it had been a while since he had last seen the annoying fellow who addressed him as 'brother-in-law' all the time. *Yeah. What's so important that he failed to visit his own sister on her deathbed?*

Yang Chen subsequently turned to Tang Zhechen at the corner, "Old Tang, where's your grandson Tang Jue? His sister was dying and he couldn't be bothered to show up?"

Tang Wan across the ward answered in his stead, "He was sent by Grandpa to Russia to handle some businesses as his training. This incident was intentionally kept from him so he could focus on his work there."

Even after she was poisoned and stuck to the hospital bed, Tang Wan never stopped caring for her only brother.

Yang Chen sighed in his head on how fortunate Tang Jue was. Whenever he was in trouble, Tang Wan would jump to his rescue. All he needed to do in life was focus on the tasks he had been given. But in all honesty it was fair to keep it a secret from him. Letting him know would have made things worse.

Li Dun was not interested in the Tang family's issues. He excitedly came up to Yang Chen. "Mr Yang, I'm actually here to meet you."

Yang Chen nodded. "Good, I was planning to make a trip to visit your side of the clan too. Why don't we talk outside?"

Li Dun couldn't have asked for more as he held out his hand as an invitatory pose.

Watching Yang Chen leave with Li Dun, Tang Tang pouted and said, "Uncle really is an inconsiderate person. Just like that, he's leaving the moment Mom got better."

Tang Wan lightly scratched on her daughter's nose, hinting that there were still people around. She did not want to expose her secret with Yang Chen just yet.

Tang Zhechen bursted into laughter and said, "Tang Wan, if you feel better we should call the doctor in for a blood test. If the results show nothing wrong in particular, we should get you discharged immediately. I will get someone to make you some high quality bird's nest for your recuperation."

"Okay." Tang Wan nodded eagerly, waiting to be discharged from the hospital.

On the other end, upon leaving the hospital, right at the edge of the parking lot both Yang Chen and Li Dun almost simultaneously paused. Li Dun decided to initiate by proceeding with his request. "Mr Yang, I'm a militant. I'm not the kind that beats around the bush. Today, I'm here to duel you."

Chapter 633

Never Heard of It

Yang Chen knew what Li Dun was here for the moment he saw him. Li Dun pointing it out did not come as a shock to him. The vibe of a rugged veteran resonated from Li Dun, which he assumed wouldn't be interested in much else besides a decent fight.

"What makes you think I will accept your request?" Yang Chen retorted.

Li Dun was determined to get the yes. "I know you will. Why else would you humor me?"

Yang Chen shook his head. "If I fight you because you want me to, how shameful would that look on me?"

"Then tell me. What can I do to make you fight me?" Li Dun surprisingly reacted with civility over immediate hostility. He was well aware of their current position within hospital boundaries.

Yang Chen replied, "I'm all in for a duel. But let's raise the stakes to make it more interesting. If I agree to fight you there should be rewards and punishment. Now it is for you to decide on whether your request still stands."

Li Dun might be short-tempered but as the captain of the special forces, he sure was no idiot; otherwise he would've been dead in combat long ago. Idiocy was for the weak and he was not weak by any means.

“So Mr Yang, what problems are you facing which might need my support?” Li Dun was as straightforward as ever.

Yang Chen applauded and said, “Glad to see you have your wits about you. Such a refreshing change of pace. There is only one thing I need your help for.”

He continued by briefly explaining the incident between Cai Ning and Yong Ye. Yong Ye and his parents were considered part of the Li clan, but given their distant relations it went without saying that they naturally had less significance in the clan than Li Dun.

Yang Chen kept his terms short and simple—if Li Dun lost, he would have to nullify the wedding contract that Cai Ning was embroiled in. This way, Yang Chen himself was free from the obligation of making a controversial appearance. Cai Ning would be detached from Yang Chen’s involvements, thus retaining her independence.

Li Dun upon hearing Yang Chen suggestion frowned and thought for a bit. “Mr Yang, Yong Ye is part of my family regardless of how distant we are. I need a solid reason to follow through with your plan. The bet alone does not suffice. Maybe in your eyes my cousin and Miss Flower Rain’s marriage might be inappropriate, but regardless it was their own business. I can’t be poking my nose in places it shouldn’t be.”

Yang Chen was frustrated with his reply. “There is a reason, there is! You can just say that Cai Ning doesn’t like him, and there’s no point holding a meaningless wedding.”

Li Dun laughed as he replied, “That isn’t a reason. Neither of us is involved in the marriage. How would we know if she was reluctant or not? Besides, if their marriage turned out to be a fruitful one, wouldn’t that just tarnish my name for trying to break them up?”

Yang Chen was caught off-guard by his thoughtful and thorough personality. Never would he expect a person as short-tempered as Li Dun to remain this clear-minded.

Li Dun in slight pity added, “I apologise for that but I simply cannot agree to conditions like that. If you had asked for money or something else, I could have reconsidered. But if it’s related to my cousin’s relationship, regardless of how much I want to have a duel with you Mr Yang, I cannot jeopardize the family and our reputation over a duel.”

“I guess you’re right.” Yang Chen guiltily giggled. This wasn’t the first time his desperation had led him to make some rash decisions. If Li Dun had actually accepted the request, he would become a pawn in Yang Chen’s plan of disrupting a loved one’s marriage. That would have only ended in a tragedy.

Li Dun on the other hand carefully thought about Yang Chen’s terms and said, “But, if my cousin was found guilty of abusing the position of our family to manipulate Miss Flower Rain into marrying him, then it would prove that his means of going about the marriage was not ethical. If you can prove that Miss Flower Rain actually has no intention of marrying my younger cousin, then I as his cousin brother will stand up to expose his misdeeds.”

Yang Chen for the first time, gave a detailed look at Li Dun. He started to like this fellow. His personality was one of the rarer few that he admired.

Humble, confident, thoughtful and willing to put others before himself. The children of most wealthy clans could hardly say the same.

Excluding Yuan Ye who was now his cousin, Yang Chen had never met a male friend in China that he would be eager to build a platonic friendship with. Of course it went without saying that a large part of that was because Yang Chen preferred female company over male ones. He had spent too much time on his women that he had no time to find any guy friends.

"I suppose you are a nice, honest person. Well then I'll cut the games," Yang Chen continued with a smile, "Even if you don't plan to help me, if you really want to fight, then I'll accept the duel."

Li Dun originally thought that this request was going south really quickly, but it took a quick turn and so did his emotions. He burst into laughter and gave Yang Chen a quick pat on the shoulder. "You sure are worthy a man of the Pluto god status! Then I'll skip the formalities. Let's make it happen as soon as possible! Please follow me to a wider area where we can really let loose!"

It was after all in the hospital compound, which was not too convenient for a duel. Yang Chen had no objections.

Around this time, Sky Dragon and Ye Zi made their way to the two men. Ye Zi anxiously asked, "Brother Yang, are you really going to duel Master Li?"

Yang Chen rubbed his nose and replied with a smile, "Well his enthusiasm is infectious. But don't you worry, this is a friendly match. Nobody is going to get hurt."

"If you can shred my flesh and break my bones so be it. Do your worst," Li Dun replied headstrong.

Sky Dragon couldn't help but stare at Li Dun like an idiot before he sighed and said, "If that's the case then I won't stop you, but we will still be around. Just yell whenever you need us."

Meanwhile, the situation at the hospital was mostly settled. After Tang Wan completed her blood test, she was allowed to return to the Tang residence. Yang Chen's first task on his current trip to Beijing was officially checked off the list.

As for the mastermind behind Tang Wan's poisoning, Yang Chen was not too concerned about it. After his fight with Li Dun all he needed to do was to stop by at the Tang residence. As a fellow lawbreaker himself, he was sure that there was no traceless crime.

After about half an hour, Yang Chen aboard Li Dun's military-grade Hummer arrived at a special operations base camp outside Beijing's 5th Ring Road.

The entrance personnel immediately bowed and saluted at the presence of Li Dun's vehicle.

Li Dun drove his vehicle past the heavily guarded entrance into a vast training field. To its sides were several minimalistic flat buildings of various sizes. The buildings were no doubt built with extremely durable materials which were able to withstand earthquakes or landslides without leaving a dent.

Yang Chen got down from the vehicle and curiously glanced through his surroundings. There were several stern, sweaty men jogging past, evidently under training.

It seems like all these people are not inferior to the Dragon Group Recruits that Yellow Flame Iron Brigade once had me train. Many of them have their temples bulged upwards, probably as a result of hard cultivation. These soldiers are pretty decent, thought Yang Chen.

Having noticed Yang Chen's curious glances at the site, Li Dun proudly boasted, "So how was it, Yang Chen? All these people here are my brothers. They have been carefully selected to be part of our special forces." After some casual chats on the vehicle, bold and forthright Li Dun started to call Yang Chen by his full name.

Yang Chen nodded, and replied only with two words, "Not bad."

That was all he could say—even though these special forces could match those from the Dragon Group Recruits, there were still a considerable gap between them and the best in the world.

Li Dun however felt that Yang Chen lacked sincerity but he did not let it affect him. He once again gestured Yang Chen to invite him to a nearby practice room.

Along the way every special operation personnel stopped to give their salute towards Li Dun as he casually walked towards his destination.

Yang Chen curiously asked, "Which squad are you the captain of again?"

Li Dun was visibly agitated by Yang Chen's enquiry. He briefly glared at him. "You actually don't know?"

Yang Chen was frustrated by his response. *?Am I supposed to know?*

Li Dun was slightly annoyed as he answered. "My team's name is actually related to mine—Blunt Blade Special Forces."

[TL note: 'dun' from Li Dun's name means blunt.]

"Blunt Blade?" Yang Chen frowned. *?I can't recall ever hearing their name prior to this!*

"We were originally a squad under the jurisdiction of the security bureau. But recently, we have gained our independence from the government. I believe you know that our family controls a huge majority of China's special forces on top of maintaining the security bureau. Blunt Blade is the best of the best among them. Every year, the members of this squad would be assessed and the less competent ones would be replaced. Everyone in the squad is undoubtedly the cream of the crop," Li Dun explained.

Yang Chen was however still intrigued by the name. "Blunt Blade. Who chose the name?"

Chapter 634

Removed

Li Dun shook his head. "A master chose this name for the group when the nation was founded. Until now, no one has deciphered its meaning. I used to wonder what it signified, but all the theories I came up with didn't seem plausible. My final theory was that he named this group in the heat of the moment. However, since we're all used to that name, we haven't before felt the need to change it."

Smiling, Yang Chen didn't add any further comments.

At last, they arrived at an empty training room. But it would seem that someone had spread the news of their duel because many soldiers from Blunt Blade were rushing to the training room in droves to witness the duel between their commander and the legendary Pluto.

Thankfully the room was spacious enough to accommodate all of them.

Li Dun treated the duel as seriously as he did in real wars. He walked to the front of the arena, removed his coat and did some simple stretching to warm up his body. He then turned face to face with Yang Chen.

In actual fact, Yang Chen was rather flippant about the whole matter. But at the same time, he didn't want Li Dun to think that he was underestimating him. So he decided to put up and act and start stretching to stifle his yawns.

Li Dun settled into a fighting pose. Just as he was about to strike, his body and its internal energy went through a huge transformation. As if a sleeping lion had been awakened from its slumber, Li Dun's underlying strength and raw power rolled off his body in waves.

Yang Chen frowned slightly. *He has probably killed countless people on the battlefield. Surely some of that killing intent must have manifested into ferocity,* he thought.

Li Dun clearly excelled in internal energy. He wouldn't have been titled part of the 'Beijing King Duo' if he had relied solely on hard cultivation.

Although Yang Chen had no clue which style of internal energy Li Dun practised, he could sense that it was an extremely aggressive and unyielding one. The moment Li Dun struck his pose, the entire atmosphere of the room turned incredibly hostile!

Seeing Yang Chen's inaction, Li Dun charged forward while yelling, "I won't let you off the hook so easily!"

In a flash, Li Dun's body disappeared from his original spot. It reminded Yang Chen of the leader of Takamagahara that he had encountered in the past—the bastard Nurarihyon.

The members of the squad surrounding the arena started cheering. Even though they had heard of Yang Chen's prowess, they had never actually seen him in person. So they could only assume that his feats had been exaggerated and he wouldn't be in the same league as their commander.

At that moment, Li Dun displayed his lightning-esque speed and explosiveness, causing cheers and shouts to resound around the room.

Yang Chen quickly shifted his feet slightly, which seemed innocuous. But as Li Dun's fist was approaching, it had skimmed over the plane of Yang Chen's chest and punched the air instead!

Li Dun didn't expect to land his first punch on Yang Chen. His arm that had been outstretched about a meter away from Yang Chen suddenly burst with a tremendous amount of explosive power!

A muffled but deafening sound shot across the air.

Yang Chen couldn't help but feel a little surprised. *Did he just release his True Qi?!*

Previously, Yang Chen never bothered to look into Li Dun's cultivation. His first move had revealed that Li Dun was well into the Xiantian realm. Although it wasn't too impressive to a guy like Yang Chen, Li Dun was already on par with masters like Abbess Yun Miao and Yang Lie. As for his flexibility and combat experience, he was already miles above them!

It was no wonder that he was known as part of the 'Beijing King Duo'. Until now, even Yellow Flame Iron Brigade didn't have a real Xiantian master. It was likely that Li Dun had recently broken through that barrier; otherwise Abbess Yun Miao wouldn't have told Yang Chen earlier that there were so few Xiantian masters in existence.

Since Li Dun was putting so much effort into the fight, Yang Chen felt the need to show some respect.

Yang Chen sensed the scorching heat of the True Qi approaching him. Knowing that it wouldn't harm him even if he received a direct blow, he still took action by waving his hand to dissipate the Qi.

Li Dun had never before seen his raw power dismissed so easily. Rather than being disheartened, Yang Chen's move had only caused his desires to surge. Charging forward, he sent a flurry of punches with a speed that could not be seen by mortals.

Yang Chen's hands were already in place to guard against everyone of his punches. Every time Li Dun tried to land a punch, it was easily blocked as if everything had been choreographed. This continued on for some time, filling the air with never-ending sounds of punches.

But the thing about the fight that astounded the soldiers the most was how it appeared from a distance. While Li Dun was weaving here and there to attack him, Yang Chen was still standing in his original position while occasionally turning to face the direction of the oncoming punches.

To be honest, the only reason Yang Chen went through with this match was to be on good terms with Li Dun. Nothing more.

Had the fight taken place when Yang Chen newly returned from abroad, he might've been forced to take this seriously, albeit fighting in his 'sealed' state. However, currently, Yang Chen faintly felt that he wouldn't have that much of an improvement even if he was in his 'unsealed' state.

The people that Yang Chen was genuinely interested in battling were Yan Sanniang and Ling Xuzy from Hongmeng. A small fry like Li Dun, couldn't even hold a candle to them.

However, Yang Chen couldn't bring himself to defeat Li Dun that easily. After all, the people in the arena were all Li Dun's men. Should he defeat him under a minute, the men would lose their trust in their commander and it could break their fighting spirit. So he decided to let Li Dun continue his attack a little longer while allowing Li Dun to display his peak power level in an attempt to help him improve.

Slowly, the True Qi that Li Dun emanated reached its peak and from a distance, it seemed like Yang Chen was encased in a ball of flame. The temperature of the room suddenly spiked from a comfortable warm atmosphere to an intense heat.

The longer the battle progressed, the more terrifying Yang Chen seemed to the soldiers.

From the start of the duel, Yang Chen had not budged an inch from his original position and no matter what moves Li Dun threw at him, he would defend himself without fail.

Finally, Li Dun leapt about ten metres away from Yang Chen to a wider area. He was panting, rivulets of sweat dripping from his face. But through it all, he had a happy expression on his face.

“I knew you were strong, but I never expected for you to be untouchable,” said Li Dun through his ragged gasps. He wiped the glistening sweat on his forehead, then continued, “I haven’t removed this in a long time, but today, it’s safe to assume that my only hope is to remove it.”

Remove? Remove what?

Yang Chen could hear what Li Dun spouted, but couldn’t understand a single word of that. However, some of the soldiers surrounding them let out a collective gasp so they clearly knew what Li Dun was referring to.

The thing that Li Dun wanted to remove, was his eyepatch!

The young man had been wearing an eyepatch over his right eye the whole time. All this while, Yang Chen thought that it was due to an injury from the battlefield, but it turned out that he wore an eyepatch on purpose. What was he trying to cover up?

“When I was five, I lost my vision in my right eye. No one could find the root of the problem. Not even surgery or medication could do anything to cure it. At last, a specialist pointed me in the right direction and my grandfather sent me to an old tulku at Tibet for treatment. He eventually became my master.” While Li Dun was recounting his backstory, he removed his eyepatch and threw it to the side.

[TL note: Read about ‘tulku’?.]

Slowly but surely, his right eye opened wide...

Black! It was all black!

Yang Chen discovered that Li Dun’s right eye socket didn’t have anything where an eyeball should be—it was a bottomless ‘blackhole’ with no telling what is inside it.

“My right eye was never cured. But my master being the wise man he is, used some secret method of treatment. He restored the vision in my right eye, but... along with my newly regained sense of sight came something else...”

In that moment when Li Dun’s voice trailed off, Yang Chen sensed that something was approaching his torso!

Yang Chen twisted his body with all his might to dodge it, but it was still too late. A single fist had brushed past his torso, its True Qi tearing a small gash in his shirt.

It was the first time that Li Dun landed a punch on Yang Chen, even if it was just his shirt!

And at that same time, Li Dun, who had been standing at a distance of roughly ten metres away from Yang Chen, suddenly disappeared!

Yang Chen was honestly shocked this time. Had he been speaking to Li Dun’s image all this time?

Li Dun’s skill and strength were excellent, but when he opened his right eye, his skills immediately rose by a huge margin!

Yang Chen, who could produce 'images' as well was very clear about the situation—Li Dun didn't pull that off solely by yielding incredibly speed. Producing copies of one's image could be categorized in many different levels!

Li Dun's image had almost fooled him, but it required insane amounts of strength to accomplish such a feat. It was because, as the body moves, it needs to withstand tremendous air pressure and resistance. No ordinary warriors could do that!

If the one-eyed Li Dun was an early-stage Xiantian expert, then the one who had just received the major change, could definitely be on par with a middle-staged one! He had become a truly qualified Xiantian master!

But the bottom line was, the reason he could even lay a finger on Yang Chen, was because he managed catch Yang Chen off guard.

Li Dun remembered his arm, then had a look of amusement on his face. "My right eye is something out of this world, so I wouldn't use it unless I'm in a life-threatening situation. However, this hampers me from making any actual improvement. But now that you have forced me into this state, prepare yourself!"

Chapter 635

Absolute Power

Li Dun did not wait for Yang Chen to reply. He continued with his attacks, this time with full force. The entire room was present with fragments of Li Dun's presence!

Li Dun's punches went from loud pops to booming pounds resounding in the whole area!

Bang bang bang bang bang!

Countless clones of Li Dun appeared like computer graphics in sci-fi movies, embodying the immense heat of True Qi as they struck straight towards Yang Chen from all directions!

Yang Chen couldn't help but marvel at Li Dun's cultivation. If it wasn't for him, Li Dun would have been the strongest in all of China among the ranks of Xiantian. He would reign supreme over the younger generation.

Yang Lie might be improving at an unprecedented rate, albeit under the influence of medication and Kunlun Sect. But in actual fact, his combat skills at this point might just be half that of Li Dun's.

But a gap is a gap, and Yang Chen wouldn't lose a fight out of courtesy. Now that Li Dun had already demonstrated the peak of his powers, it was about time Yang Chen ended the duel.

At this moment, Li Dun like a meteor, channeled a fiery punch directly from the stratosphere aiming towards Yang Chen. If the punch missed Yang Chen and connected with the ground instead, there would be a hole several meters wide bored beneath!

Yang Chen lifted his hand with immense speed and instantly grabbed onto Li Dun's wrist!

In the split second of which all of that happened no one on the ground could get a clear sight. All they saw however, was Li Dun's body being dragged across the sky and tossed to the ground right next to where Yang Chen stood!

Li Dun was terrified. All that effort to accumulate his strength into that one punch amounted to absolutely nothing as Yang Chen effortlessly plucked him off the sky!

Without my right hand, there's still the left!

Having practised Tantric Buddhism, Li Dun gathered his internal True Qi on his left fist, which as a result seemed like glowing-hot steel, and threw a punch right into Yang Chen's chest!

Even though it was just a 'friendly match', Li Dun was not planning to hold back. He knew that something like this wouldn't hurt Yang Chen too severely.

But he evidently underestimated Yang Chen...

BANG!

The punch went right into Yang Chen's vital organs!

Yang Chen responded with inaction as he received the punch which amazingly enough, amounted to absolutely nothing. The True Qi dissipated into the air, and not a single mark was left on Yang Chen's body.

Yang Chen cracked a grin, as he grabbed Li Dun's right hand and flipped him over like a wrestler's smackdown!

Li Dun was nothing more than a flopping fish, as he flipped over Yang Chen's head and straight to the dirt.

THUD!

A loud, dull thump was heard as Li Dun's torso collided into the marble floor of the arena. The entire training ground shook to its core as dust and debris engulfed its radius. A pit was created in the process.

If it was just any ordinary person, they would have ended up as minced meat by now. Yang Chen knew that anyone protected by Xiantian True Qi would only sustain some bruises at most.

The entire venue went dead silent. The only sounds that could be heard were the gulps of the men from Blunt Blade as they quivered with uncertainty.

Li Dun remained on the ground as he blankly stared at Yang Chen from below, unable to phrase his thoughts into words. It was the first time in his entire life he had lost with both eyes open. Any thoughts about the match would have to wait until he could comprehend what had just happened.

Yang Chen on the other hand was wondering if he was allowed to smoke in the area, since he hadn't been smoking since he came to Beijing. Now that he was more relaxed after blowing off some steam, he drew out a cigarette and lit it.

He stared downwards and said with a smile, "I don't know if it's true, but I think there's a reason the master named this team 'Blunt Blade'. Trust me, it wasn't random.

“A sharp, prized sword might be able to slice through the toughest of metals. But a thick and blunt weapon possesses an overpowering intensity that could decimate everything at sight.

“Your right eye enables you to unleash a large array of skills. But it still couldn’t close the gap between us. No matter how much you attack me, as long as I wield the supreme energy to suppress you, all your effort would still be futile.

“That elder I suppose has left wisdom in the naming of your squad. The idea is to stay humble and be always eager to improve—absolute power is the key of your squad in becoming the greatest in the world.”

Li Dun upon hearing what Yang Chen had to say stared blankly at him for the next few moments. He then gave a bitter smile. “I lost. Fair and square.”

Yang Chen nodded with encouragement. “Well you don’t have to think of yourself as weak. I’m able to achieve what I have today because of all the extra effort I had to put in throughout the years. You should be proud of yourself to be able to achieve all that at such a young age.”

Yang Chen was trying to lift Li Dun’s spirits even if the gap between the both of them were in unmeasurable terms. He believed that encouragement was the best he could do now.

Li Dun responded with an eye roll. “From what I know about you, I’m pretty sure you’re younger than me.”

Yang Chen turned bright red. *“Crap, I always forget that I’m still a pretty boy. Tsk, must be the women around me that have me stressed out all the time. It’d be great if I could enjoy my youth messing around!”* he thought.

After witnessing crystal clear the difference in their might Li Dun thought that he should stick to being friends with Yang Chen and stop calling fights he couldn’t win.

After Yang Chen helped Li Dun out of the pit, they left the training hall. The army scattered off as to give way to the two exiting men. But this time it was not to salute their captain, but from the awe of Yang Chen’s demonic presence!

Nonetheless, people who were trained to join special forces had learned to hide their fear, despite how incredible their opponents may seem!

Sky Dragon and Ye Zi were too nowhere to be seen. They were not there to witness the duel, suggesting that they might have predicted the outcome of the battle so they were hardly interested to watch.

Li Dun might be bruised and in sore all over his body, but he was in no way seriously hurt. The duel however provided Li Dun with an opportunity to witness Yang Chen’s renowned prowess.

As it was sharp at noon, Li Dun suggested, “Since you rarely come to Beijing, why don’t I host you for a bit? Let’s go for lunch. My treat.”

Ever since Yang Chen’s arrival in Beijing he had spent a good number of hours at the hospital for Tang Wan’s treatment, and was subsequently invited for a duel by Li Dun. A meal was the exact thing that he needed right now. Even though he wasn’t hungry, he believed it was always a good habit to consume

meals on time. So he answered, "I heard there's this place in Beijing called 'Heaven on Earth' that's pretty good. Should we go there?"

Li Dun hesitated, before he patted Yang Chen on the shoulder. "Previously Premier Ning mentioned at the conference that we should reduce governmental expenses. Heaven on Earth is without a doubt over the budget line, so why don't we go to a new place? I like Northwestern cuisine, strong flavours and a spicy kick. I know a really authentic place. Let's go there instead, shall we?"

Yang Chen honestly wasn't demanding in terms of what they were going to eat. After all it was Li Dun that's paying, so if he wanted Northwest cuisine then Northwest cuisine it was. "Northwest cuisine? Is it like the chicken dish 'dapanji'?"

Li Dun replied with glee, "Skip the chicken. For a friend like you, we should get meat. Something like beef or mutton!"

Yang Chen liked the sound of that!

A little more than ten minutes later, they arrived at the place named 'Northwest Eatery'. Yang Chen nearly threw a tantrum at the sight of it!

"You meant this place?" Yang Chen's finger was trembling as he pointed at the store banner. It was a picture of cows and goats on a green field...

It was called Halal Lanzhou Noodle Shop.

What he never would expect was that a member of one of the four dominant clans—the first grandson of the Li clan to invite him to a noodle parlor. *Li Dun mentioned meat. Technically, there is meat here. But I literally could finish it in one quick bite...* Yang Chen thought.

But since the little money spent on the meal was Li Dun's treat, Yang Chen tolerated with it. After all, if the son of a major clan could enjoy a noodle parlor this much, why couldn't he as well?

Gulping down two huge bowls of noodles Yang Chen felt it was about right to call it a day. He started to organize a schedule in his mind. *Tang Wan will need some rest after she returns home so I could still visit her tomorrow. But since I have some time left maybe I should go over to Yu Lei Entertainment's Beijing branch and see what that kid Hui Lin is up to.*

Hui Lin recently released a new album, and was also expecting her very first solo concert. It was safe to assume that she was quite busy. He understood she might be lonely these days, so it should be a good idea if he paid her a visit. Else he would have to genuinely apologize to her for coming to Beijing and not visiting her.

"Li Dun, I need you to take me somewhere," Yang Chen demanded with no hesitation.

Li Dun was gulping down the remaining spoonfuls of broth, as he mumbled, "Sure. Where to?"

"I need to go to Yu Lei Entertainment's Beijing branch," Yang Chen said.

Li Dun heard his request and immediately pulled up his phone to do a little research. "It is on the easternmost side of the 5th Ring Road. It will take a minimum of half an hour for us to get there. If I take

you there I will still need to drive back home afterwards. What a waste of fuel! I think it's a better idea for you to call a taxi."

Yang Chen grunted, "Is everyone from the Li clan this 'thrifty'?"

Goddamnit. Even if you don't use the Hummer, can't you at least arrange for someone to take me there?!

Li Dun patted Yang Chen on the shoulder. "Regardless of whether or not other people do their part, minimizing the usage of Earth's resources starts from us. Even the rest of us at the army are environmentally aware. I'm sure you are too."

Yang Chen at that instance understood one thing—the word 'friend' sounded so perfect when everyone was still acquaintances. But now that they got closer, it became such a problematic word!

Yang Chen was done talking to Li Dun, he rushed to the entrance and immediately called a taxi. Sky Dragon and Ye Zi couldn't always babysit him even if they were willing to. Yang Chen wouldn't feel comfortable with it anyway.

But Li Dun was annoying enough to follow along. He passionately emphasized right before Yang Chen got into the car. "Be careful! Don't get ripped by the driver!"

Chapter 636

Toad

It took one and a half hours for Yang Chen's anger to finally subside. He was on his way to Yu Lei International's branch office when he experienced had half a mind to return and beat Li Dun senseless. In the end, he managed to control his emotions for the better.

He was grateful that they had only just met each other. It was then and there that he wished to never see Li Dun again.

Guys are all the same. They act cool when meeting someone new. But the moment the familiarity is there, they immediately shred their facade and show their true colours.

Yu Lei International's branch was located in the upper floors of an independent building. There were about ten levels that belonged to the company. In Beijing, real estate was extremely expensive so for an office to have ten floors was already quite impressive.

Yang Chen made an attempt to call Hui Lin while still in his car. Although the call got through, it wasn't picked up. He didn't know whether she was in her office, but still decided to go anyway.

The elevator door opened up to the floor of the reception area. Running towards the two stunning receptionist, he giggled and asked, "Is Miss Hui Lin in her office?"

One of them replied smilingly, "Sir, are you referring to Miss Lin Hui?"

He suddenly recalled, Hui Lin was her nickname. She's now a celebrity, so I guess she's changed her name back to Lin Hui.

"That's right. I'm her family and I would like to see her," said Yang Chen.

The receptionist shook her head apologetically. "I'm sorry, Sir. If you don't have an appointment, you're not allowed to see Miss Lin Hui. Also, we would need proof to authenticate your statement about being her family member."

He felt a little gloomy as he was the director of Yu Lei Entertainment. He had the power to take complete control of the whole office but even the staff could not recognize him for who he was.

Seeing there was no other choice, he said, "I'm your director. I'm Yang Chen, not just any outsider."

The two receptionists suddenly chortled, glancing at him up and down skeptically. "Sir, do you have a name card?"

He was stunned. Name card? Zhao Teng passed a stack to me before. But I've left it on my table since then. I should've brought some with me! thought Yang Chen.

Seeing that he couldn't provide anything for verification, the receptionists were more certain of their doubt. Subconsciously, they started to look down on him.

Even though he had branded products all over his body, his overall appearance was too 'plain' when paired with his average-looking face. The receptionists even went so far to assume that his clothing were fake.

A guy like this was the company's director, Yang Chen? They would never believe it.

He scratched his head, and an idea sprung out on his mind. He said, "Don't you have computers? You can check the company's profiles. My picture should be there. That would be sufficient proof."

Helpless, but noting the serious look on his face, they searched through the company's folders.

Once his picture was found, the two receptionists threw suspicious glances at him. They raised their heads to look at him while comparing him against the photo. It turned out to really be this average looking guy.

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "You believe me now? I'm just not in suit and tie now."

They smiled rather awkwardly. "Sir... oh no, Director Yang, I can't believe it's you. We've recently started working here so we're not familiar with the company yet. So sorry..."

"It's fine, it's fine. You're just doing your job." Yang Chen was forgiving to them. The company was established quite recently after all. Most of the workers were newcomers. "Is Lin Hui in the office?"

The receptionist answered, "Yes. Miss Lin Hui is at the upper workroom, in a meeting with Deputy Director Zhuang."

Due to the company's location, Yang Chen could not handle its day-to-day activities from afar. So a deputy director named Zhuang Feng was in charge of monitoring the branch's everyday operations.

After asking for Hui Lin's whereabouts, Yang Chen headed towards the elevators. He found it rather challenging to roam around an unfamiliar place.

It was mainly due to his inadequate experience in outstation business travel. He should've ordered his subordinates from this Beijing branch to make arrangements which would've prevented the unnecessary hardships.

The two receptionists peered at his back. They looked at him with a strange glance. Never would they have expected their company's director to be so average looking

The elevator stopped.

Yang Chen stepped over the threshold and looked around him before walking towards the meeting room.

Once he arrived at the blackish red doors, he saw two Chinese men in military outfits guarding the room.

He could easily tell that the two guys were from the special forces. There was no way Yu Lei International would hire guards as capable as these men. This could only mean that there were important outsiders in the room

Yang Chen furrowed his brows, but didn't think too much of it. He then moved forward, wanting to knock on the door.

But the two guards moved in front of him, blocking his path. They said coolly, "Outsiders are not allowed inside at the moment. Leave."

Yang Chen ignored them and shouted, "Hui Lin! Your Brother Yang is here! Open the door!"

Any other normal person would never have done this. He did not care, though. Although he was capable of taking on the guards with ease, he believed that using words would be a better choice.

Before Yang Chen left home, Lin Ruoxi asked him to forgive, whenever possible.

The shout, lined with a certain edge, would definitely be heard by the people sitting in the meeting room.

Indeed, there were sudden rapid footsteps within the room. The familiar voice of Hui Lin's exclaimed, "Brother Yang!" Footsteps could then be heard running towards the door.

The door was pushed opened. Finally, Yang Chen could see her face.

She was now a well-known celebrity. With the makeup and outfit put together by professional stylists, she was no longer the once seemingly childish girl from the mountains.

Her dark, black hair slanted across her forehead, forming a bang. She wore a light blue flannel shirt and a ruffled, striped yellow skirt. She also had mild eyeshadow and lipstick on.

After having gone through an extreme makeover, she looked extraordinarily feminine, displaying her elegance formed at Emei Mountain since she was young. Not only did she look sweet, she also carried a refreshing aura around her.

Her eyes were filled with delight. "Brother Yang, why didn't you tell me you were coming?"

Yang Chen shrugged and said glumly, "I called you a hundred times, but you didn't pick up. What else could I have done?"

She was startled, and her eyes switched from showing happiness to a hint of anger. She turned her head around to face a middle-aged woman who had a uniform on. "Sister Mei Feng, why didn't you tell me that Brother Yang called?"

He inched his head forward to survey the insides of the meeting room. He saw a few people sitting around with different expressions.

The top-most tier of the meeting table sat a middle-aged, bespectacled man. He was wearing a beige-colored blazer. There were a few other people who seemed to be working the company's management, including the woman Hui Lin was speaking to.

Yang Lie?! He's here too?! Yang Chen thought.

Yang Chen casted a glance at the man sitting at the innermost seat. He shut his lips when he noticed the furious-looking young man dressed in a military uniform.

No wonder there were soldiers guarding the room. The Yang clan had access to the army.

The two guards started pulling Yang Chen out of the room but Yang Lie said, "Both of you don't have to guard the room for now. You may leave."

The guards were hesitant and curious, but orders were orders. They didn't know that Yang Lie had no intention to clash with Yang Chen that way.

At this instance, upon hearing Hui Lin's accusation, the woman replied in a cold voice, "Miss Lin Hui, as your manager, I am responsible for your life and your career. Being in contact with any guys would only harm your reputation. So, I don't have to report to you about some unnecessary phone calls."

Yang Chen frowned. Since when has she gotten such a demanding manager? he thought.

"Brother Yang is not just any guy!" Hui Lin stomped her feet, pouting out of frustration.

"Hmph, as if he's anyone to you," retorted Yang Lie coldly.

She was speechless upon hearing this. She gritted her teeth and shot a hateful look at Yang Lie. She was naive, and not a good liar. After all, she was related to Yang Chen because of Lin Ruoxi. She herself didn't know who she was in his eyes.

Yang Chen trudged forwards and patted her across the shoulders. He said, "There seems to be some misunderstanding. I'm Yang Chen, the director of Yu Lei Entertainment. Hui Lin is my sister in law, so she's technically my family. I'm just here to see her. There isn't be a problem with this, is there?"

"Take your filthy hand off her!"

The black-clothed manager stood up abruptly and glared at him with her cold eyes. She smiled disdainfully and said, "Do you expect us to be easily fooled just because that works on our Lin Hui? You're no different from a toad lusting over the swan! I advise you to quickly leave this room. Otherwise, I'll call the police!"

The smile on Yang Chen's face disappeared and he looked around. If he wasn't thinking of figuring out the woman's relationship with Hui Lin, he would have slapped her hard already.

"Hui Lin, who's this menopausal, raging woman?" asked Yang Chen in a steady, deep voice.

The woman roared upon hearing this. "Your dirty mouth should learn to speak better! You want to go to jail?"

After listening to her, Hui Lin was now angered. She said fiercely, "That guy Yang Lie forcefully put her in the company so that she could be my manager. Everyone calls her Sister Mei Feng. I heard she's quite an expert at managing celebrities. There's quite a handful of top-tiered artists under her care."

"Hmm, so she's not related to you?" asked Yang Chen.

She nodded. "Yes, she has taught me a few things. But there's nothing more between us. I'm sorry, Brother Yang. Sister Mei Feng said I'm now a celebrity, so I can't simply answer my phone calls. She has possession of my phone and has control over my calls..."

"Seems like somebody just had to put a bitch near our Hui Lin," laughed Yang Chen with a widely opened mouth.

Mei Feng's face was the color of black, as if she wanted to swallow him alive. She hushed gloomily, "Miss Lin Hui, you've signed a contract with me putting you under my line of artists. The nasty fella beside you talked to me that way, don't blame me for not being responsible for your career in the future."

"Hmph! You're the one stepping out of line first, Sister Mei Feng," said Hui Lin angrily, her face red.

The whole atmosphere was starting to get volatile. The man in a beige suit could no longer hold it in and stood up, chuckling. "Oh, I see Director Yang is here! I'm really sorry, I didn't get a prior notice to your arrival. Otherwise, we would have welcomed you warmly. I'm Zhuang Feng, the deputy director of this company. It's the first time we've ever met. Please do not take offence at the unpleasantry shown earlier."

The man seemed to be experienced in the industry. He walked towards Yang Chen enthusiastically and stepped in between them, shaking his hand regardless of the situation. He then said, "Director Yang, we're discussing the details of Miss Lin Hui's first concert. You came at just the right time! Won't you join us?"

"I would like to know why that guy is in my company." Yang Chen pointed a finger at Yang Lie.

Zhuang Feng explained, "Mr Yang, who's now a major general, will be leading the military unit in Beijing soon. He's an old friend of Miss Lin Hui's and he's here to help her." He then muttered in Yang Chen's ears, "Director Yang, it'd be in everyone's best interest if you could take a step back here. Miss Mei Feng is really powerful in the entertainment industry and she holds an especially high status in the upper class. Nobody would dare mess with the artists under her care. Furthermore, Mr Yang is the eldest grandson of the Yang clan. We can't afford to offend these two people. Even if Boss Lin came over personally, we will still have to tolerate the both of them."

Yang Chen couldn't believe that in such a short time, Yang Lie had climbed to the rank of major general. Seemed to him that Yang Pojun's failure didn't affect the status of the Yang clan. Otherwise, it'd be bizarre for such an incredibly young man to become a general.

At this moment, Yang Lie stood up and laughed. "I'm the sole sponsor of this concert. I have also taken it upon myself to be in charge of the security detail. It would only make sense if I was here. But you, crashing the place when the meeting was going on? Tsk tsk, where are your manners? But of course, who can we blame? You didn't grow up with parents."

Yang Chen took a peek at him but did not show the slightest discomfort. It was as if he did not care. Instead, he took a glide towards Mei Feng's direction.

Chapter 637

Giving You A Chance

"What's the matter? Now that you know who I am you want to get on your knees and beg?" scoffed Mei Feng.

Mei Feng had been involved in the entertainment industry for many years. The celebrities under her management were all very prominent. Naturally, she was the most sought-after celebrity manager in Asia. On top of that, she was also the vice chairman of an entertainment company. It was safe to say that she was a major player in her field.

If it wasn't for Yang Lie's trusted background, she wouldn't have signed a contract with such a rookie like Hui Lin in such a short frame of time. Even when Hui Lin had Christen's approval, Mei Feng couldn't make an exception for Hui Lin. She already had an admirable amount of capital before this but with the Yang clan's support under her belt, it was just an offer that she could not refuse. She wasn't even bothered by the fact that Yu Lei Entertainment was a very new company.

Yu Lei International was everywhere, but in the entertainment world, Mei Feng was the one who called the shots. As long as Hui Lin wanted to stay in showbiz, no one could go against her wishes.

In truth, if it wasn't for Yang Lie's insistent intervention, all the matters regarding Hui Lin's debut would have been handled by Yu Lei Entertainment. The main reason the company was set up in the first place was to give Hui Lin a good platform to showcase her talent. They wouldn't have hired an outsider to do a job that they could very well do themselves.

However, Yu Lei International was just that—a company. If someone with as much military influence and political support as the young master Yang Lie wanted to intervene in matters, it would be as easy as taking candy from a child.

Even though Hui Lin hated Yang Lie, she was still a kind and passive person in her heart. Abbess Yun Miao, the only person in Beijing who could protect her, couldn't possibly micro manage her life. Aggressively stopping Yang Lie from getting close to Hui Lin was also not the Yang clan's modus operandi.

The minute Mei Feng accepted the job of managing Hui Lin, she took it upon herself to micro manage Hui Lin's social life. This led to people like Yang Chen to be left in the dark about the fact that Hui Lin had switched managers.

In that moment, Yang Chen turned to face the female manager with a haughty expression and smiled brightly at her. “Earlier on, you mentioned that you wanted me to go to prison. I’d like to give you a chance to do so.”

Mei Feng stared coolly at Yang Chen and clearly didn’t understand what Yang Chen meant. But what happened next left her with no time to think about his words.

Yang Chen stretched out his left hand without an ounce of hesitation. His steel-like grip clenched Mei Feng’s neck.

Mei Feng’s eyes widened comically, and in her panic, her whole body was lifted off the floor.

Mei Feng tried to scream but couldn’t say a word. She tried to kick her legs to free herself but Yang Chen was relentless.

“Director Yang, please don’t act rashly!”

“Brother Yang!”

Zhuang Feng and Hui Lin were panicking. Even though Mei Feng wasn’t the nicest of people, she was a huge figure in the entertainment industry and if something were to happen at Yu Lei Entertainment, it would definitely stir up problems for everyone involved.

Yang Lie watched the whole scene unfold with mirth. He gazed on tauntingly which seemed to say—do it if you dare.

Yang Chen didn’t listen to their warning and headed towards the windows in the conference room all while lifting up Mei Feng.

They were on the fortieth floor of the building. From this height, the cars on the ground looked like tiny matchboxes weaving their way through the roads..

Mei Feng was almost running out of air. Her eyes were rolling into the back of her head and her body was already limp like a ragdoll.

Yang Chen showed no hesitation. He swung her half lifeless body out the window like a brick.

The glass windows could not do anything against Yang Chen’s force and shattered into pieces upon impact. Shards of glass were impaled in Mei Feng’s body as she fell downwards into the street below them.

“Ahhh!”

“Murder!”

The executives in the conference room all screamed, and dashed madly out the door in a fit of panic.

Zhuang Feng was also at a loss. At first, he thought that Yang Chen was just trying to intimidate Mei Feng. Never did he expect for it to end in cold blooded murder! Not only that... he had resorted to such a gruesome method of murder!

Falling from the fortieth floor, crashing into a tempered glass and bumper, then landing on a cement pathway, it would've been a larger surprise if she wasn't dead by now.

... ..

At the parking lot right outside the high-rise building where a certain Infiniti SUV was parked, Sky Dragon and Ye Zi were having their afternoon tea. They had escorted Yang Chen all the way here but did not follow him into the building. After all, they were just there to monitor Yang Chen but not interfere with his life. That would just displease Yang Chen, the consequence of which was not what they wanted to deal with.

After all, all Yang Chen wanted was meet Hui Lin. How much trouble could he really get into?

Or so they thought. The couple had just taken a few bites of their tea when their eyes widened at the sight of a woman dressed in black, descending from the sky.

The hollow sound of the impact resounded following the sounds of a screeching car alarm. The metallic tang of blood permeating the air; her neck visibly bent at an unnatural angle.

The two men stared wordlessly at each other for some time, before Ye Zi broke the silence. "Sk—Sky Dragon, how... how did things turn out this way?"

Sky Dragon seemed to realise something, and drew in a sharp breath. "We're doomed. General Cai made us watch over him and gave us orders to prevent Yang Chen from causing a ruckus in Beijing. How will I be able to face the general now?"

... ..

In the conference room, Zhuang Feng was close to peeing in his pants. He regretted ever taking the job at Yu Lei Entertainment. What kind of company was this, where they allowed such a madman to be the director?

Hui Lin was still reeling from the shock but she didn't feel much remorse or sympathy for Mei Feng. After all, she wasn't your average girl. In her opinion, Mei Feng had angered Yang Chen. Once anyone had angered Yang Chen, they should be prepared to face their consequences.

A slow clapping broke the silence.

Yang Lie laughed and stood up from his seat, saying, "Bravo, bravo! That was an impressive performance!"

Even though Mei Feng had been murdered so brutally, her employer didn't even show a shred of sadness. On the contrary, he was absolutely ecstatic. It was as if everything was going according to his plan.

Yang Chen said blandly, "You thought that by doing this, you could goad Hongmeng into battling me, and get rid of me? Perhaps it might work. But you didn't account for your own life. If you want, I can send you to the afterlife right here right now"

It was obvious that Mei Feng was just another foolish pawn in this game of high-stakes chess. She had entered the game without even knowing, and was used by Yang Lie to provoke Yang Chen.

This time, Yang Lie had really targeted Yang Chen's Achilles heel, from manipulating Hui Lin, and openly humiliating him. He knew that this would definitely infuriate Yang Chen.

Yang Lie laughed madly, his face contorted into a disgusting expression. "You want to see me die? Bring it on! You're not wrong. I planned for all this to happen in the hopes that Hongmeng would get rid of you! Did you really think that you were invincible? I bet you thought that you had the protection from the old man so you wouldn't have to worry about anything. Well, I won't let you off so easily, so come on then! Kill me! Just you try killing off the grandson of the Yang clan, one of the four major clans, and let's see whether Hongmeng will still watch from the sidelines!"

"As you wish." As soon as Yang Chen finished those words, his body appeared right in front of Yang Lie.

While Yang Lie had the help of panacea from Kunlun, and was quite skilled, but he was, after all, still young and not like Li Dun who had already entered the Xiantian realm.

The moment Yang Chen moved closer to him, Yang Lie instantly felt a stifling force which was so overpowering that he was running out of breath.

He mustered all his strength and attempted to steady himself in front of Yang Chen, but no matter how hard he tried to resist it, it seemed that the space in front of his body was being condensed to the point where moving his limbs proved to be a difficult task

Slowly, Yang Lie's veins started hammering in his body, and his arteries were on the verge of bursting. He slumped to the ground, kneeling in defeat.

Yang Chen thought that he was just randomly releasing an intimidating aura, but it was already something so powerful that Yang Lie couldn't defend himself against it.

Yang Lie did not want to resign himself to his fate, yet he couldn't help but think. *?This man has somehow gotten stronger? What kind of monster is he?*

Hui Lin who was brought up in the world of cultivation and martial arts could naturally recognise their nature. Hence, she was utterly shocked when she realized that Yang Chen's cultivation was already much beyond the boundaries she could possibly imagine!

"In my eyes, you're nothing more than the dirt between my shoes," said Yang Chen condescendingly. He lowered his head to look at Yang Lie who was still on his knees. Slowly, he said, "I don't believe that you are capable of formulating such an elaborate plan to trick me into facing Hongmeng because you don't even have the level to even begin to understand Hongmeng. Moreover, the Yang clan would never give you such a huge sum of money to invest in Hui Lin's concert. Therefore, someone must have set you up to do this."

Yang Lie raised his head, and said shakily, "Hmph. So what if that's the case... There are many people who would love to see you dead. ? It isn't just me... I won't tell you anything..."

Yang Chen just laughed mockingly at him and proceeded, "I didn't ask for a list of people who wanted me dead. We would be here all day and night. Those people never stood a chance against me. Well, if you're not going to say anything useful, then I won't ask. I'll just send you on your way."

Watching the scene unfold with intensity, just as Yang Chen was going to kill him, Hui Lin finally couldn't hold it in any longer. She shouted, "Brother Yang, don't!!!"

Hui Lin's words were actually effective, and Yang Chen paused in his movements. He turned to look at the girl.

"Brother Yang, if you kill Yang Lie, Aunt Xuehua will be brokenhearted. You guys... you guys are brothers after all." Hui Lin was shaking in fear. She felt that if she didn't stop Yang Chen, it would ultimately lead to Guo Xuehua's misery. A misery that might forever be irreversible.

Chapter 638

Inevitable

"I don't consider that bastard my brother! Look, if you want to end me make it quick. I simply don't have time to waste!" Sympathy from Hui Lin fueled Yang Lie's rage even more.

A million thoughts flashed through Yang Chen's head. He tried to consider their mother Guo Xuehua—the woman who brought Yang Lie to this world—and how she would feel about this. But if he kept Yang Lie around, his future would only be packed with problems that Yang Lie would cause.

After a long pause Yang Chen sighed and said, "I once purged your cultivation, but brought it back at our mother's request. I now regret the day I did so. With your uncontrollable rage, making you an ordinary human would benefit everyone."

Yang Lie seemed to have realised where that was going and quickly taunted, "Bastard! If you got the guts then kill me!"

Yang Lie's death pledge meant nothing as Yang Chen placed one hand over his skull. He then released a scorching gush of True Qi which bore into Yang Lie's his flesh and bones!

Yang Lie howled in pain as white steam fumed from his skull. He collapsed under the intense pressure in his head.

Hui Lin, who was standing to the side, stared in shock at what she had just witnessed. To her knowledge of what had just happened, Yang Chen used his immensely overpowering cultivation levels to annihilate Yang Lie's eight meridians through sheer force. This single act purged his body of all the years of cultivation he had accumulated!

When Yang Lie eventually wakes up, he would be no different from an ordinary human. There was a chance that he might even end up disabled. And just like that, he was barred from ever cultivating ever again!

By rendering a master cultivator powerless, the shame that they felt was worse than the release of death.

That was without a doubt the worst punishment Yang Lie could ever receive.

But Hui Lin knew this was already the furthest extent of Yang Chen's compromise. Everything that Yang Lie had done leading to this point had been constantly pressuring Yang Chen's patience. He was already lucky Yang Chen chose not to physically cripple him further.

Yang Chen upon completion ordered the dumbfounded Zhuang Feng to tidy up the space and send Yang Lie off to a nearby hospital.

Zhuang Feng snapped back from his daze as he took a glimpse at Yang Chen. He was extremely confused with the man he called Director Yang. Believing that Yang Chen possessed exceptional capabilities, he quickly obeyed the orders given without hesitation. It was rather unfortunate for him to have witnessed such events. This was something that would surely scar him for the remainder of his life.

After a turbulent hour, the incident had finally come to an end.

Zhuang Feng gathered the high-ranked witnesses of Yang Chen's murder and pressured them keep the events a secret. They immediately accepted the demand fearing the things that Yang Chen could do to them.

On the other hand, Sky Dragon and Ye Zi manipulated the police reports to label Manager Mei Feng's death as 'accidental death'. This removed the possible backlash of her death becoming a social scandal.

Zhuang Feng couldn't believe the trickiest part of Mei Feng's death was secretly dealt with without his knowledge. This only further solidified his belief that Yang Chen had more than an unusual background. Every action he took—especially those involving Yang Chen—he took with extreme care.

After the situation had been more or less dealt with, Zhuang Feng returned to his usual desk job.

Back at Zhuang Feng's office, he invited Yang Chen over for a visit. He prepared a cup of warm tea for Yang Chen before enquiring Yang Chen's motives for doing what he did. "Sir, Mei Feng might've deserved it, but Miss Lin Hui's latest album release and her concert are both just around the corner. Not having a manager guide her through the process might make everything a little chaotic. What do you propose we do about it?"

Hui Lin sat closely to Yang Chen on the couch, eagerly awaiting his reply. Mei Feng's death had not impacted her much but in the case of Yang Lie, she was in jovial mood that Yang Chen eventually took her advice.

"Deputy Director Zhuang, I've got to be honest with you." Yang Chen was aware that his actions left a mark on Zhuang Feng. So he had to tread with caution in order not to spook Zhuang Feng further. "The whole reason Boss Lin started Yu Lei Entertainment in the first place was for her little sister Lin Hui. It was her wish for her sister to be able to perform her own songs in a safe environment. Henceforth, from now on if anyone from the outside has plans to interfere with our Lin Hui, your first order of business is to contact us at the Yu Lei branch in Zhonghai immediately."

Zhuang Feng was shocked as he came to a realization. *?Boss Lin and Lin Hui both have Lin as their surnames. So they're actually sisters?! Why didn't I think of that?*

As for the 'our' that Yang Chen had mentioned, Zhuang Feng was confused but he was wary to ask, as he replied, "I see. I didn't know she was Boss Lin's little sister. Why didn't you tell me Miss Lin Hui? I could have been fired because of a simple mistake like that. How disgraceful would it be for me to have been fired after working for less than a year."

Hui Lin was biting on her lower lip as she felt slightly embarrassed towards Yang Chen calling her 'little sister'. It was a little uncomfortable for her.

“As for the new manager, I’ve already arranged a team for her. Relax Mr Zhuang. From now on all you need to do is to take good care of Lin Hui. Yu Lei will reward you in kind,” Yang Chen proclaimed.

Yang Chen no longer had any trust for random people to be chosen as Hui Lin’s personal manager. If there was a chance that she could be taken advantage of, he would rather assign a personal team for her which he could trust.

As for who would be the most suitable candidate, Christen might be a prime candidate. She had ample experience in the entertainment industry, to gather a professional team shouldn’t be a problem. On the other hand there was also Ron. He was Yang Chen’s head butler from Europe who had been involved in the industry for many years. Yang Chen was confident that he could recruit Hui Lin a personal manager in no time. The final choice between their picks could be held for a later time.

Zhuang Feng sighed in relief. Having Yang Chen deal with the matter was a relief to him. He continued, “I would definitely give my all in supporting Miss Lin Hui, but... it would be great if Director Yang could recruit the manager and the professional team as soon as possible because we are on thin ice here. There are still many things we have to deal with and we just don’t have the time.”

Yang Chen was about to reply before his phone rang. It was Tang Wan.

He instantly picked up the call. “Why aren’t you resting? You need some time off to recuperate.”

Tang Wan on the opposite end seemed to be in a good mood. She gently replied, “Because you’re always so busy. You left so abruptly this morning, was it to meet one of your many lovers?”

Yang Chen frustratedly replied, “The only one I have in Beijing would be you.”

Tang Wan chuckled at his statement. “What, am I your lover now?”

Yang Chen noticed Hui Lin by his side snooping on his conversation and was worried that she would notify Lin Ruoxi, so he gave a cough and continued, “Alright let’s not talk about this for now, did anything happen? I’m currently working at my branch company.”

“Well actually, Grandpa and I agreed that we should invite you over for dinner tonight as gratitude. I wonder if Master Yang would care to join?”

Yang Chen giggled. “Sure, nobody would reject free food! Send me your address, I’ll get there as soon as I’m done with the business here.”

Upon his acceptance of the dinner request he ended the call, and finally gave his prolonged reply to Zhuang Feng. “Fret not, regarding the managerial team, they will be here by tomorrow. As for the details, I will send you their contacts and you can settle it with the team by then.”

Yang Chen had no professional knowledge so he kept his conversation limited to the recent conditions of the company. Once that was completed, he followed Hui Lin as they toured the Beijing branch.

At the end of it, Yang Chen made his way to the studio to listen to a few of Hui Lin’s latest singles in her album. He was left in a daze regardless of his lack of musical knowledge.

Maybe it was due to her childhood in Mount Emei that Hui Lin's music resonated an ambience of tranquility. Her vocals brought about a classical backdrop regardless of the genre of her music. This provided her songs with an unique twist.

Zhuang Feng accompanied them throughout the visit, while constantly bragging about her. "There are many singers these days who make one hit and leave the scene. But the ones that could truly achieve the ranks of pop queens all possessed the ability of individuality. Miss Lin Hui's voice soothes the souls of the audience. I believe she would move the hearts of all across Asia, and eventually throughout the world."

Yang Chen nodded, even though Zhuang Feng was clearly bootlicking.

Hui Lin ultimately had a lot to deal with in Beijing, and it was also about time that Yang Chen left for the Tang clan's dinner invitation. As dusk started to reclaim the sky, Yang Chen left the branch office.

This time however Yang Chen skipped the taxi. Instead he searched around for the whereabouts of the vehicle Sky Dragon and Ye Zi were in.

Sky Dragon and Ye Zi seemingly anticipated Yang Chen's request, as they flung the door open.

Yang Chen sat lazily inside the Infiniti as he glanced towards the front seats and came face to face with Sky Dragon and Ye Zi. The both of them were giving him the most sour face they could muster. Happily, he said, "I'm going to the Tang's for dinner but I was afraid they wouldn't let the taxi in. So I thought it was a better idea if the both of you took me."

Sky Dragon sighed, "Your actions were far too rash. Even for you Yang Chen. While that Mei Feng wasn't someone significant, now that you killed her, you're bound to create a chain reaction that will eventually come back to bite you. And what about Yang Lie? You think he's going to sit back, now that you've purged his cultivation?"

Yang Chen was scratching his ear while he was listening. He happily replied, "What's bound to happen will happen. If so many people were expecting to use Hongmeng against me, then there's no reason for me to hide any longer. If I retreat, they will surely start to rise above me and mistake their place in the world. Anyway, much thanks to the both of you. Relax, I won't involve the both of you when the situation is beyond your control."

Sky Dragon was about to reply but Ye Zi nudged her husband and shook her head ever so slightly. She was convinced that what Yang Chen said had some value of truth. Things that will happen will be.

Not long after, the vehicle sped across the bright streets, heading towards the Tang residence.

Chapter 639

What Do I Owe Him

In a private ward at a hospital located in Beijing, the dim lights flickered over a man lying soullessly on the hospital bed. His eyes were completely void of any emotions or expressions.

Even the nurse who came in to renew the glucose transfusion avoided eye contact with him as she anxiously hung a new bag of solution onto the metal stand.

The man in the hospital gown was none other than Yang Lie—the man who had his cultivation purged from his body by Yang Chen.

The moment he woke up, he found himself lying on a hospital bed completely weak to his bones.

It was then that he realized that his meridians were completely hollow. Death was a far less cruel punishment!

His return from Kunlun to Beijing was greeted with a position as general of the garrison force by his father Yang Pojun. His future prospects were looking great, but instead all that he was now was a piece of scum!

Yang Lie was unsure of how he would face Yang Pojun or rather, Yang Gongming. He was glad the the news of his ‘punishment’ had not yet spread. But something like this couldn’t stay hidden forever. And when the time comes to reveal it, he will have to face hell!

His hatred and agony towards Yang Chen nonetheless was the sole reason to stay alive.

At this moment the ward door was once again pushed open. There stood a ruffled, bearded man dressed in white. He held a sinister smile as he walked towards the ward bed.

“Tsk tsk. Look at how pathetic you have become without your cultivation and internal energy. At least the glucose transfusion is keeping you alive.” The visitor, to Yang Lie’s surprise, was Yan Buwen!

Yang Lie shifted his gaze towards him, and asked in a dull manner, “Yan Buwen, it’s amazing that you still have the guts to visit me.”

“Master Yang, what do you mean by that? We’re friends. When I caught wind of your incident, I made it a point to visit you,” Yan Buwen said with a cunning grin.

“Huh? Friends? If it was not for your dumb plan for me to interfere with Yu Lei Entertainment and arrange that idiot Mei Feng as Hui Lin’s manager for the sake of infuriating Yang Chen, why else would I end up like this?!” Yang Lie had gotten visibly emotional.

Yan Buwen shook his finger. “My plan had no flaws. From the moment that he murdered her, everything was going according to plan. The goal of my plan was to make him kill someone himself, to stir the emotions of the public and Hongmeng. Never had I once told you to infuriate Yang Chen. It was your ignorance that led him to purge your cultivation. You brought it upon yourself.”

“What?!”

Yang Lie was enraged as he lifted his fist to punch Yan Buwen. But now that he was just an ordinary person, his punch was effortlessly caught by Yan Buwen with one hand!

“Keep your punches. You’re not worthy.” Yan Buwen sneered as he pushed his subdued fist away.

Yang Lie was thrown back on the bed. The embarrassment that he felt right now was worse than any injury he had ever gotten.

Yan Buwen quietly stood by and observed without any remorse.

After a long while when Yang Lie finally had no tears left to shed, Yan Buwen followed up with a suggestion. "Master Yang, do you want to be like Yang Chen?"

Confused, Yang Lie lifted his head. "Wh—what?"

"I asked if you would like to be like Yang Chen. To possess a might identical to his, or even greater!" Yang Buwen repeated his suggestion with a sly grin.

Yang Lie was stunned. He wasn't sure if his injuries had affected his hearing.

Yan Buwen bent down close to Yang Lie's face. With an evil smirk, he continued, "If you entrust your all to me, I can make you a god."

In the dimly lit ward, the man's low pitched growl sounded like the call of the devil.

... ..

Meanwhile, Yang Chen was happily laughing in the car on the way to the Tang clan's dinner. Little did he know that there were people scheming against him, waiting to cause him more misery in the future.

En route to the Tang residence, Yang Chen managed to give separate calls to Christen in America and Ron in Europe regarding Hui Lin's managerial team. He eventually decided upon Ron's selection of a world-class manager along with his renowned artiste preparation team. They were ready to depart for Beijing at his request.

After a casual chat, it was obvious that Ron had missed Yang Chen's companionship as he repeatedly hinted for Yang Chen to make a visitation trip back. Yang Chen, on the other hand, was trying his best to evade that topic.

Not too long after, he arrived at the Tang residence. It surpassed Yang Chen's expectations of a vintage building, but was instead a cluster of modernistically designed mansions.

Right after dropping him off, Sky Dragon and Ye Zi went on their way.

Tang Tang was waiting by the gate for his arrival. Upon seeing him, she dragged him inside as she nagged along the way, "Uncle, are you finally going to make a mini-me with Mom? After you saved her life this morning, I think she can't wait to thank you by contributing her body."

Yang Chen was dumbfounded. *What is a 'mini-me'? The real you is already torturing enough!*

He shook his hands as he replied, "No wonder your mother always calls you a troublesome kid. You always say the darndest things."

"I was just being honest. Honesty is my biggest attribute in life!" Tang Tang was filled with joy. "Unlike you, Uncle. You're always acting all high and noble when you're in fact so perverted. If I were you I would've gotten on her bed long ago!"

Her bed?? Yang Chen's perverted mind instantaneously started imagining scenarios. *With that gorgeous body of Tang Wan's, having bed exercises with her would be as great as that seductive woman Catherine... Tang Wan may lack experience, but it would mean that she could bring different strengths to the table...*

As the thoughts started floating through his mind, Yang Chen's face went bright red!

He doubted Tang Tang's intentions, unclear if she was just kidding or genuinely expecting himself to gift Tang Wan with a child.

Nevertheless Yang Chen did not overthink. After all, the reason he was granted special privilege to approach her mother was because he was the first guy that Tang Tang approved of.

Not to mention the fact that her mother would have died today without the miraculous deeds from Yang Chen. So everything resulted in Tang Tang being more than willing to have Yang Chen as her 'new dad'.

As for Fang Zhongping, Tang Tang might've accepted his presence as the father but had barely bonded with him.

After they navigated through several exquisite mansions, Yang Chen noticed that the Tang residence was actually quite expansive. It was understandable though as it was a generational one. With each generation came a new mansion to the already existing ones.

Nonetheless many of the clan members were spread across every corner of China. There were also many of them who were living abroad, leaving most of the mansions empty and vacant.

Yang Chen and Tang Tang traveled all the way to a three-storey building in the core of the residence. In its backyard was a vintage pavilion with hints of antiquity which was well lit.

Within the pavilion was an entire banquet table filled with food, as the maids were busy getting ready for the dinner. Master Tang and Tang Wan were happily chatting with the rest of the crowd.

Once they noticed Yang Chen's arrival, Master Tang stood up as the rest followed to welcome Yang Chen.

Amongst them were Master Tang, Tang Wan, Tang Xin, and Tang Huang whom Yang Chen was familiar with. There were a few other people present that he could only assume were the direct relatives of the Tang clan, the ones which he never met.

Tang Tang carefully whispered to Yang Chen, "Uncle, everyone invited today is close to Mom except Uncle Tang Huang."

Yang Chen smiled. Tang Tang might be young and occasionally immature, but she knew a fair bit about the situation of the Tang clan's inner feud.

Everyone present, excluding Tang Huang, was a core member of the Tang clan who wholeheartedly supported Tang Wan. As for Tang Huang, he might be embroiled in fierce rivalry with Tang Wan, but his effort in being a good sport couldn't be diminished.

"Yang Chen, we were afraid that you'll feel uncomfortable with too many people at the banquet, that's why we kept the invitation minimal. Since you're our valued guest, you shall sit next to me." Master Tang giggled as he pointed to the seat between him and Tang Wan.

Yang Chen went round to greet each and every one of the people present. When it was Tang Huang's turn, Tang Huang shook Yang Chen's hand tight as he earnestly emphasized, "Thank you so much for saving my sister. Have a couple drinks tonight on me."

Even when he was obviously in deep rivalry with Tang Wan, Tang Huang exhibited gratitude that Yang Chen could feel that he was genuinely glad for Tang Wan's recovery. Notably because of the courtesy he had that the rivalry persisted until today, even if Master Tang was clearly biased towards his granddaughter Tang Wan.

After everyone gathered at the table, Tang Wan's uncles and aunts started toasting their wine to Yang Chen. Some of them did not even know who he was.

Yang Chen had a few glasses of wine in a row before he looked at the variety of dish in anticipation. However, before he could start eating, he once again felt the presence of a familiar troublemaker...

All he heard was clamorous laughter echoing throughout the entire courtyard. A young man marched into the venue with a sack full of guava as he yelled to the crowd, "Everyone from the Tang clan, I brought fruits for you all!"

Who else could it be except Li Dun?!

Even for someone who was used to witnessing strange antics, Tang Zhechen couldn't help himself but roll his eyes on Li Dun's debacle.

Li Dun quickly made himself at home. He placed the sack of guavas down by the side, and started laughing. "Why did everyone start so early? Sorry for the delay, I was buying some fruits along the way. Any space around for me?"

Li Dun may not have been around in Beijing much, but everyone from the Tang clan knew well and clear that he was one of the 'Beijing King Duo', while at the same time also the first grandson of the Li clan.

Nonetheless, this rascal came with cheap guavas in exchange for a meal! The Tang's were left in dismay. What's more, he wasn't invited!

The first to react was Master Tang, as he smiled gently before saying, "Since this kid from the Li's has decided to come for the party, our clan will welcome you with open arms. There's no need for you to buy us any gifts as you're not an outsider. Come, have a seat. Butler, get an extra pair of cutlery."

A wise, experienced man like Master Tang was thick-skinned enough to call a sack of guavas 'gifts'.

Li Dun however had truly accustomed himself as he ordered the maid around. "Just put the chair by Miss Tang Xin. We're pretty close."

Tang Xin nearly fell off her chair as she glared at Li Dun. *What's wrong with this person?! He's been contradicting my every word at the hospital, and now he wants to sit by me?! What do I owe him?!*

Chapter 640

Tiny Man

Watching the events that unraveled before them, the Tang clan members wondered how Tang Xin had gotten so close to the young, intelligent heir of the Li clan. Master Tang, on the other hand, had other thoughts to this matter. This was the perfect opportunity for her to prove herself in the clan. It was important to tighten their bond with the Li clan. If it is successful, it was possible for this relationship to remain beneficial even after Tang Zhechen was well over a hundred years old.

The Ning clan was the strongest among the four dominant ones in Beijing. Ning Guangyao's inheritance was the most successful among the previous handovers. He had rightfully become the premier of China, which naturally made him the head of his clan as well.

The Yang clan's master, Yang Gongming, was obviously in a better health condition than Master Tang. Although he was no longer the young man he once was, he hasn't caught any diseases or accidents before.

On the other hand, Li Moshen from the Li clan was way younger. It hasn't come to a point for him where he would have to start considering his future successor. The only person that should be doing this was Tang Zhechen, for his age and his time were coming to an end.

So, maintaining the Tang clan's status among the four dominant clans after the passing of Master Tang was the core members top priority.

It was the first time Li Dun had visited the Tang clan. He was unfamiliar with the people there. However, he wasn't the type to be awkward in the presence of strangers. He held up his cup of alcohol and began to propose a toast to the people sitting near him.

"Come on, it's a rare opportunity for me to be able to have this meal with all of you. I hope you don't mind me coming empty-handed. Let us enjoy the drinks that have been prepared. Let's start with three cups as a punishment!" Li Dun raised his head to gulp down the white wine. He drank such a highly concentrated wine just like that. There was at least 80 millimeters!

The people around him stared in confusion at him. They didn't want to punish him with alcohol!

"You must be joking! We should be the ones giving you a toast. Your reputation of being part of the 'King Duo' among the younger generation precedes you!" Tang Huang stood up and clinked his cup against Li Dun's, displaying the attitude an heir of the Tang clan should have.

Li Dun swallowed another huge gulp of his wine and laughed. "What 'King Duo' are you talking about? It's no different from a salted, two-yolked egg."

While talking, he turned towards Tang Xin who had been quiet throughout the conversation and said, "Miss Tang Xin, how would you like to pour me a drink?"

Tang Xin was already furious. Upon hearing the excitement in the tone of his voice, her anger rose sharply. Dissatisfied, she said, "Don't you have hands to pour for yourself?"

Right after the words had slipped through her lips, her face became stiff and she felt a rush of regret.

Rightly so too, as all the members gathered around the table glared at her in contempt. Had this girl been fed gunpowder recently? Doesn't she know that this was the perfect chance to foster ties with the Li clan?

Li Dun was more often than not involved in combat all over the world. It was a rare opportunity to dine with him. Even when he was in Beijing, his passive self would never drag his body out to social events. Now that he had willingly come to one, the Tang clan would never live it down if Tang Xin screwed up their one chance at a relationship with the Li clan.

But nobody could've guessed what came next. There wasn't the slightest hint of displeasure from Li Dun. Instead, he giggled softly and said, "Yes, yes. I suppose I was being too aggressive. I indeed have my own hands"

Everyone else took this scenario in. Li Dun took the wine bottle and tipped it, liquid filling his cup.

"Miss Tang Xin, let me give you a toast. It's up to you whether you choose to accept it," said Li Dun, holding out the cup at her.

The others could roughly guess his intentions. This guy seemed to have developed feelings for Tang Xin!

Logically speaking, he should be giving his first toast to Tang Zhechen. But Li Dun kept focusing his attention on Tang Xin—he must've come for her today!

Albeit unwilling, she still stood up. Holding her cup with both of her hands, she clinked her glass against his and took a sip.

Due to being slightly distracted from the outside world, Tang Xin choked on the wine!

She coughed lightly and her reddened eyes teared a little.

This startled him. He quickly put the glass down and held her back. He patted her softly and said awkwardly, "Oh, Miss Tang Xin, I didn't know you're not good at drinking. I shouldn't toasted to you then. I didn't mean to make you choke."

"Take your hand off of me!"

Tang Xin could feel his hand on her back; her face flushed and she tried to get rid of it.

He let out a few cracks of laughter. He then said to the staring crowd egotistically, "I'm sorry. I was being rather blunt but I held no intentions of teasing Miss Tang Xin. I was simply caring for her."

Yang Chen, who had been sitting quietly to enjoy the dishes, took a peek at Li Dun and shook his head with a smile.

Li Dun's behavior could only mean that he was interested in Tang Xin. Even a blind man could tell.

Tang Wan's face was lined with happiness. She whispered in Yang Chen's ears, "I can't believe Li Dun likes Xin'er. All this time I was worried that she wouldn't be able to find someone. Seems like I don't need to anymore."

"That guy looks crazy. Shouldn't you feel worried for that?" Yang Chen laughed maliciously.

She smirked at him and said, "If girls are willing to stay with a guy like you, do you think I'd be worried about this guy?"

He pretended not to hear anything. He then continued minding his own business, indulging in the food prepared for the guests. After all, he agreed to a meal, not to socialize.

Tang Zhechen looked around peacefully, smiling all the time. When the atmosphere became still and quiet, he asked Li Dun, "Mr Li, this meal was initially planned to thank Yang Chen for saving my granddaughter Tang Wan's life. But your arrival made it seem like it was somehow planned for you. You should really make it up to him."

Li Dun waved his hand and said, his voice indifferent, "Master Tang, rest at ease. I know Yang Chen well. As long as he can get a free meal out of it, he's fine with everything else." Afterwards, he winked at Yang Chen.

Yang Chen was tearing the meat off of a drumstick when he heard Li Dun. He would give anything to throw the drumstick in Li Dun's face at this instance!

"How obvious of you to use toasting as a method to drink free wine." He rolled his eyes, seeming undefeated.

Upon hearing this, Li Dun slapped his hand against his own chest. "I've always been honest and upfront, unlike you, a petty little guy."

"You brought me for ramen for a meal, and you were unwilling to give me a ride because you didn't want to use your gas. You dare call me petty...you...tiny man!"

"I..."

"Alright, alright," said Tang Wan, clearly sick of the bickering "Both of you are not kids anymore. Why are you still arguing like one? You think the Tang clan is a kindergarten?"

She had no choice but to stop them. Everyone around the table was holding their laughter in ever since they heard about the part whereby Li Dun treated Yang Chen a bowl of ramen.

Even the maids were looking at him incredulously. Why was this rich young man so stingy?

The only person who wasn't in a good mood was Tang Xin, who had her head dipped.

After the relentless bickering between the two grown man, Tang Huang saw his chance and struck up a conversation. He said smilingly, "Mr Yang, I heard... you have a complex relationship with Beijing's Yang clan. Since all of my sources weren't official, would you care to explain the side of the story from your end? We are all very curious as well."

The relationship between Yang Chen and the Yang clan had in fact been out in the open even before Yang Pojun lost the election. After all, the actions by Yang Gongming and Guo Xuehua would've been discovered by those with the intention to do so.

Tang Huang wanted to know about the relationship between Yang Chen and the Yang clan. Yang Chen's answer would determine his relationship with the Yang clan.

If the Yang clan had recognized Yang Chen, then he would be the heir to the clan. As long as he had yet to be accepted by the Yang clan, he wouldn't be able to take over any positions.

Although the people present weren't very supportive of Tang Huang, they were eagerly waiting for Yang Chen's response.

Yang Chen then said, while chewing his meat, "I had found my long-lost mother a while back. As for other matters, I have no comment."

Hearing this response, everyone understood the meaning behind it. Seemed like it was true that Yang Chen was staying with his mother. This meant that he wasn't completely separate from the Yang clan.

If Yang Gongming never intended to reunite with Yang Chen, he would not have gone to Zhonghai, nor let his daughter-in-law stay with him!

Thinking of this, the Tang's were fuelled with excitement. Yang Chen had saved Tang Wan multiple times. There must be something going on between them. Who knew if the Tang clan could use him to foster their ties with the Yang clan.

Due to the fact that Yang Chen was now a married man, marriage was not an option. However, there was no way Tang Wan could marry publicly since her daughter was no longer a small kid. So, even if there was a small chance of there being something between the two, the Tang clan was more than okay with it.

Furthermore, if Tang Tang were to have a successful marriage with Yuan Ye from the Yuan clan, that'd be another link with the Yang clan! That was because Yuan Hwei, the master of the Yuan clan, was married to Yang Chen's aunt Yang Jieyu.

Everyone was delighted in light of the new news. This was a good day for them. The Yang clan and the Li clan would soon connect with the Tang clan in the most extraordinary ways.

But nobody knew that Yang Chen's self-worth was much greater than the Yang clan, if he and Tang Wan were to develop a relationship.

Li Dun was not surprised upon learning Yang Chen's relationship with the Yang clan. The Li clan was in charge of the security bureau, so critical information would reach them before anyone else. However, he wasn't bothered at all if Yang Chen had ties with the clan or not.