

Chapter 791 - PDA Time

PDA Time

Li Jianhe immediately went into deep thought.

When Lin Ruoxi sensed the change in atmosphere, she turned back to look at Yang Chen with a puzzled expression.

On the other hand, Yang Chen was still seated while enjoying his food. He'd almost inhaled the entire tray of squab alone.

Shen Yaxin furrowed her brows. "Haitao, is Henry Graves the name of this watch?"

Wang Haitao stared at Yang Chen who was still nonchalant about the whole thing. Nodding, he said, "Forgive me for saying this but if I hadn't seen a real Henry Graves today, I would've believed it to be a myth."

Everyone was puzzled. To them, it looked like an ordinary pocket watch made of brass. It didn't look like anything special.

Wang Haitao cradled the watch in awe. "I've only seen this watch in articles. Henry Graves is a pocket watch created some time ago. Although it doesn't look like much, as it is very old, it's actually made of 18k gold. A watch like this was built to last.

"This watch was born between 1932 and 1933. The American watch collector Henry Graves invited a legendary watchmaker and presented him with a goal in mind. The goal was to make it unlike any other watch ever made. There's only one of its kind in this world!"

"What?!"

The crowd gasped in disbelief.

Huang Lele covered her mouth in shock. "Then... wouldn't it be almost a hundred years old now?!"

Even Chris and his wife had their jaws on the floor.

Li Jianhe and Shen Yaxin were speechless.

"Haitao, are you sure? Are you sure this is the watch, the one and only?" someone asked accusingly.

He shook his head. "I can assure you that it is. The oxidation matches the era it was from. There isn't any evidence of it being a replica either."

The crowd immediately disbanded their disbelief. There were many collectors in the Wang clan and Wang Haitao was an outstanding youth of his generation. He wouldn't have put his reputation on the line for a fake.

Lin Ruoxi's mind echoed with what Yang Chen had said when he gifted her that watch. "This really is a good watch! I took it from the head of the FBI..."

Now, she was starting to panic a little. This man with the greasy mouth next to her, what was he doing in America?!

Wang Haitao had already calmed down by now. Nodding, he said, “Although this watch has existed for almost a century, its workmanship was far ahead of its time. It’s one of the best pieces to date. It’s hard to imagine more than nine hundred parts in it. This watch has 24 functions! It’s the elite of all multi-function watches. Even now when technology has advanced so far, there are only a few watches which can compete with this one.

“From what I know, from the second this watch was made, to around the year 2100, it wouldn’t even be off by half a second!”

“No... Then wouldn’t it be very expensive?” Someone asked the question that was on everyone’s mind.

He smiled bitterly. “The word ‘expensive’ is an understatement. The last transaction was at the Sotheby’s auction more than 10 years ago, sold at eleven million US dollars. Adjusted for inflation, it’s still the most expensive watch to date! There’s none like it!”

Eleven million... US dollars?!

The most expensive watch in history?!

That regular-looking piece of metal?!

The crowd fell silent. Everyone was staring at the Henry Graves watch in Wang Haitao’s hands.

If the Vacheron Constantin was the king of watches, then Henry Graves was the emperor of all!

From the moment it was born, it relied solely on its parts.

Wang Haitao continued, “If we sell it today, it would far exceed its last selling price. You can’t actually judge its worth from its price. To me, to everyone who truly knows their watches, this is beyond priceless! It is the pinnacle of man made watches with a rich history to boot. To be able to see it in person... Today has been monumental for me.”

As he spoke, Wang Haitao stood up. He respectfully walked up to Yang Chen’s seat, returned the watch with two hands and asked, “Mr Yang, forgive me for my curiosity. I haven’t seen this watch appear in the news over the past decade. How then did you manage to get your hands on it?”

Yang Chen replied, “I saw a man carrying this in America, so I snatched it up when the opportunity presented itself. He wasn’t in need of it anymore so I decided that it would make the perfect gift for my wife.”

Of course, Robert being dead wouldn’t need his watch. When he’d first gotten the watch, he had always carried it with him because ‘the most dangerous place is the safest place’. No one would’ve guessed he was carrying such an expensive item with him. Even if someone were to recognize it, no one would want to assault the chief of the FBI.

Too bad a man like Yang Chen was knowledgeable in this field. With his photographic memory, he’d recognized this watch during the incident so he wanted to bring it back for Lin Ruoxi as a gift.

Unfortunately, they were in the middle of the problem with Mo Qianni so he didn’t have the chance to explain its history to Lin Ruoxi. She had thought that he had given her a scrap piece of metal as a consolation prize. Needless to say, he was extremely peeved.

Without hesitation, he gave the watch back to Lin Ruoxi.

On the other hand, Lin Ruoxi seemed to be in shock. She took the watch from him with trembling hands.

He smiled warmly. "Ruoxi is the most precious to me in this world. So a priceless artifact like this is the perfect gift for my beloved wife..."

Of course, what he said was for everyone to hear. The crowd was stunned, while Lin Ruoxi turned to a beautiful shade of red.

She'd even resented him for giving a diamond ring to Mo Qianni and only a stupid watch for herself. It looked like she'd made a mistake after all. When he mentioned that he had kept the watch just for her, he really meant it.

Everyone stared at the pocket watch. It was a century's worth of history right there in Lin Ruoxi's hands. It was emotional.

Li Jianhe and Shen Yaxin's expressions darkened. They never would've expected that something they did to make Lin Ruoxi look bad would turn into a PDA session between Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi.

Their Vacheron Constantin worth 3 million pounds was enough to make jaws drop but in comparison to a watch as legendary as the Henry Graves, it was nothing!

No one there underestimated Yang Chen anymore. Everyone was privately speculating if this man had a certain status. Perhaps being Lin Ruoxi's employee at Yu Lei was only something he did for fun?

A few of them asked Lin Ruoxi, with great interest, if they could look at the watch.

She looked at Yang Chen questioningly. Yang Chen didn't care though. He'd given it to her, she could even toss it into the drain if it pleased her.

Lin Ruoxi generously passed the Henry Graves around for everyone to admire.

Upon closer examination, they realized that this 24-function watch indeed did live up to its name. It was unbelievable that this was made a hundred years ago!

Everyone was suddenly praising Lin Ruoxi for marrying a good husband. A priceless watch like this was still extremely precious even in the richest households. Yet Yang Chen had gifted it to her. It was admirable.

The crowd wasn't stupid either. They would never believe that a man who could get something this important, then casually gift it to his wife had no status. Soon, the compliments started rolling in.

Even Lin Ruoxi didn't expect a turn in tables like this. She did not care what these people thought or said about her after all. She was only reacting on the surface.

Shen Yaxin almost spat fire. She'd always been overshadowed by Lin Ruoxi since they were in school. She did marry Li Jianhe but did not gain the sense of victory she so desperately craved. She'd initially thought Lin Ruoxi had married a 'subordinate', so her life shouldn't be very luxurious. Shen Yaxin wanted to take this opportunity to embarrass her but who would've expected her plan to become the launchpad for the couple!

At this point, the cabin door opened. A middle-aged man clad in formal attire walked in. Smiling, he announced, "I'm so sorry, am I interrupting something?"

It was only upon meeting this man when Li Jianhe's frozen expression relaxed into delight. He'd found the chance to quickly get up to say, "Of course not, your nephew has been waiting to see his uncle."

Chris turned to see the newcomers and guffawed. "And here I thought it was just an old friend!"

The newcomers were the long-gone father-and-son, Yuan Hewei, and Yuan Ye!

Yuan Hewei was as charming as always. He was passionately raising a glass of red wine towards Chris.

At the same time, he scanned everyone at the table. Yuan Hewei's gaze stopped at Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi, when he beamed. Obviously, he'd guessed they'd be here.

Chapter 792 - Man Without Status

Man Without Status

Everyone here immediately recognized the most powerful man in Zhonghai, the master of the Yuan clan. More importantly, he was the son-in-law of Beijing's Yang clan, one of the big four! It was safe to assume that they were related by blood.

These people knew that the army in Beijing was basically the Yang clan's private army while the Yuan's controlled the development industry. It was only one of the income streams for the Yang clan too.

With a foundation in business and the military, and through the leadership of a man with many talented heirs like Yang Gongming, the Yang clan had always remained as one of the four dominant clans.

No matter how powerful Li Jianhe's family was, they were still based in China. Without the protection of the Chinese government, did they truly have power in the European countries? Throughout the entire group, only his wife's family had more stable ties in politics. Compared to the Yang clan who had the country's full support, the differences between them were stark. That was why when Li Jianhe saw Yuan Hewei, knowing they were more powerful than the Li's, he forced himself to smile and call him uncle.

Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi looked at each other, confused.

It looked like Li Jianhe was previously late because he'd met Yuan Hewei. Yuan Hewei probably knew from Li Jianhe that this gathering was organized by Chris and immediately made the connection that the husband and wife would be attending.

Chris was an internationally known market and human resource expert. Everyone in the industry would have known that Lin Ruoxi had gotten him to work with Yu Lei.

Since they were family, Yuan Hewei and Yuan Ye obviously had to visit. As for meeting Chris, it was only secondary.

Yuan Hewei had known Chris for many years. They feigned friendliness as they went through the formalities.

Yuan Ye, walking with his father, was also wearing a tuxedo. He secretly winked when he saw Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi but still maintained a serious expression.

Li Jianhe stood and raised his glass at Yuan Hewei as if they were very close.

Many of the people attending started to become very friendly. Who wouldn't want the chance to meet with one of the largest clans in China? Meeting the Yang's was rare as they were mainly situated in the military. That was why connecting with a Yuan was a very good stepping stone to the Yang's!

"Uncle, since you're here, why not let your nephew introduce everyone at this table? Let me have the honor now, and I hope Uncle will care for them in the future," said Li Jianhe smilingly.

When everyone heard this, they immediately looked at Li Jianhe with gratitude. They were waiting for a moment exactly like this. They hadn't expected Li Jianhe to be this generous to pave the way for them.

In Zhonghai, even in the Jiangnan region, if one had a connection with the Yuan clan, everything would be so much easier.

When she saw everyone focus their attention on her husband, Shen Yaxin smiled in delight. She raised her glass, then politely walked to Yuan Hewei's side. "Uncle, don't mind my husband, he's just looking out for his friends."

Yuan Hewei smiled warmly. "It's nothing. I've done business with your father's generation for many years. I feel much younger myself to see all of you young ones. You overthink Yaxin."

Everyone there was shocked to hear that Yuan Hewei even knew Shen Yaxin's name. They were the husband and wife controlling a large financial group after all. The Yuan clan still had to treat them well to give them some face!

Shen Yaxin was even more delighted. She peered at the quiet Lin Ruoxi with contempt, as if using her eyes to say, *Do you see? The difference between my status and yours?*

Li Jianhe graciously gestured to invite them over. "Uncle, these two are Chen Zinuo from the State Administration for Industry and Commerce and the daughter of the Su Province's Huamao Group, Feng Zhener. They were my university mates."

Yuan Hewei made an expression like he'd heard a big name, then clicked glasses with them in respect. He'd even let his son clink glasses with them and make small talk. The couple was so pleased their faces started to turn red from happiness.

This was how Li Jianhe introduced the next three couples.

When Yuan Hewei introduced Yuan Ye as his only son, the couples started to notice Yuan Ye. The future of the Yuan clan would fall on this man. His young age would make it infinitely easier to connect with him.

That was why the compliments he received surpassed his father.

Yang Chen was watching them, but he couldn't help but whisper to Lin Ruoxi, "Honey, it looks like Yuan Ye's dream of only playing video games is over. If his father is bringing him out to these kinds of social events, it must mean that he is preparing for his son to take over."

Lin Ruoxi had been ignoring Shen Yaxin's look of contempt. When she heard what Yang Chen had said, her lips curled. "When men have family, they become more mature. Yuan Ye is making preparations to

marry Tang Tang, the Tang clan's heir. She cannot marry someone who only thinks about video games all day long. Do you think everyone is like you, that they'd continue acting like they weren't married?"

Yang Chen swallowed his words and smiled sheepishly. "Weren't we talking about Yuan Ye? Why do I have to be dragged into this?"

"I only think that it's weird. You're supposed to be related by blood, but why is Yuan Ye, who is younger than you, more responsible than you?" she said.

Yang Chen rubbed his neck and coughed drily as if nothing had happened.

Lin Ruoxi fell silent. Her mood was much better than before. Her anger at Yang Chen for giving the diamond ring to Mo Qianni had basically faded.

When she saw Li Jianhe and the Yuan men approaching, she asked, "If we expose our relationship here, would that be bad?"

Yang Chen was cutting up his French goose with a knife. If it weren't for its gravy, he wouldn't have used a knife. When he heard her question, he returned the question, "Why would that be bad?"

"Weren't you... unwilling to have anything to do with them?" she stuttered.

He laughed. "I've mentioned bringing you back to meet the Yang clan, so I wouldn't mind it now. And everyone there in Beijing already knows of my existence so since that is the reality, I'll take it in stride. I'm not going there to kiss ass anyway, there's nothing to hide."

She smiled, privately hoping that Yang Chen would be able to be close to his family. Perhaps it was her situation that made her more hopeful for him. She grew up lacking the closeness of a family. She understood what it felt like to be lonely. If she still didn't meet her in-laws, she'd definitely regret it.

Then again, even if it was Guo Xuehua, Yang Gongming, or the Yuan husband and wife, they were all kind to her. Hence why she was more comfortable with meeting them.

Lin Ruoxi was still traditional at heart. She loved to see families have fun together and not scattered halfway around the world. At least Yang Gongming was still alright but the probability of Yang Chen mending ties with Yang Pojun and Yang Lie would be almost zero. She didn't want to talk to Yang Chen about this sensitive topic either.

At this moment, Li Jianhe and Shen Yaxin accompanied Yuan Hewei and his son to Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi's side.

Shen Yaxin rushed to speak, "Ruoxi, why not let your husband raise a glass with us? This is a rare opportunity to get to know Uncle Yuan!"

Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi smiled at each other. They didn't respond but quietly stood.

With a certain amount of pride, Li Jianhe said, "Uncle Yuan, these two are—"

Without waiting, Yuan Hewei raised a hand to stop him. Ignoring Li Jianhe's confusion, he grumbled with mock frustration to Yang Chen, "You brat, why aren't you greeting your uncle?"

His words were harsh but it had hints of love and friendliness.

At this moment, everyone thought they had heard it wrong.

Yuan Hwei said... 'uncle'?!

The air seemed to have frozen in the cabin. Everyone, including Chris and his wife, stood in shock, as if waiting for the answer they didn't want to hear.

Yang Chen was still holding the knife in his hand as if it wasn't a big deal. He smiled and replied, "You're busy making your round of introductions. Ruoxi and I saw that you were busy enough so we didn't say anything."

Yuan Hwei let out a guffaw. "Your aunt even mentioned recently that it was alright if you both were busy when Yu Lei was in danger. Now that you're free, why haven't you called home for a meal? She's been asking for the both of you. Didn't you say that you planned on visiting your father-in-law in Beijing? Why haven't we heard from you? Your aunt and I are waiting for a family reunion."

Aunt? Father-in-law in Beijing? Family reunion?

Everyone's hearts almost stopped!

Li Jianhe and Shen Yaxin had their mouths wide open. They stared at Yang Chen in shock. This man with grease on his lips, the same man who looked like he was no different from a commoner. Who was he? If they didn't find out soon, their brains would explode!

Chapter 793 - Don't Mention Your Mutton Skewers

Don't Mention Your Mutton Skewers

Taking this opportunity to speak while everyone was still reeling from shock, Yuan Ye cheerfully volunteered. "Brother, give us some face. We're blood relatives and yet you don't even greet us."

Yang Chen pointed at the goose on his plate with his knife. "I'm busy eating. You don't pay me to greet you. And look at you, Tang Tang has been having her exams and you're not there encouraging her."

Yuan Ye smiled coyly. "I want to go but my mother said to only bring her out after she's finished with her exams or she might get distracted."

"Hmph, useless son. You're not even married yet but you're always thinking about her," scolded Yuan Hwei, laughing.

Yuan Ye retracted in embarrassment.

Lin Ruoxi couldn't help but smile at this warm yet hilarious scene. Her smile was as sweet as a blooming flower in spring, causing the rest of the people to stare.

Yuan Hwei was exceptionally kindly to Lin Ruoxi too. "Ruoxi, I know you're a quiet person but you should talk to your aunt more often. She really has taken a liking to you. Plus, you're about to be the future Mistress of the Yang clan. You should learn more of the rules earlier so you wouldn't panic when the time comes."

Mistress of the Yang clan?!

This status was yet another bomb! Everyone in the crowd was boiling their seats!

In reality, Yuan Hwei had his motives too. How could a man so experienced in this industry not see that Li Jianhe and Shen Yaxin were deliberately walking all over Yang Chen and his wife? He had to say a few words not only to reveal Yang Chen's identity but also to lift his name up.

While Yang Chen hadn't returned to the Yang clan yet, Yuan Hwei believed that it would happen sooner or later.

Lin Ruoxi was surprised that Yuan Hwei would say such a thing. She was not so well versed with what to do in situations like that one. Hence, she nodded gracefully.

Yuan Hwei didn't mind. He apologetically turned to the crowd. "Apologies. I've been busy with work lately so I haven't been able to meet the younger ones in my family much. That's why I had to talk to them."

The crowd immediately shook their head to wave it off. Why would they resent him? They were only worried that Yang Chen would take revenge on them for their treatment before!

Chris asked in confusion, "I've always felt that Mr Yang was not ordinary. But I truly did not expect him to be the future master of the Yang clan." Chris might be an American but even he was aware of the four dominant clans in China. He was very well-read after all.

Yuan Hwei looked at Yang Chen. When he saw that Yang Chen had not stopped him, he continued, "Yang Chen is my biological nephew. He's the eldest grandchild of the Yang clan and was separated from us since young. We've only been reunited about a year ago. He's still the flesh and bone of the Yang clan, though he hasn't exactly been open about it lately."

Li Jianhe and Shen Yaxin had been hit the hardest so far. Upon hearing this, their legs almost gave out under them!

There were millions of people with the Yang surname, but why did he have to be the eldest grandson of the Yang clan? And even the future head at that?!

No wonder he could casually gift a priceless pocket watch this easily. No wonder Lin Ruoxi would suddenly marry someone 'without status'!

When they finally understood everything, they felt like they were being conned!

Li Jianhe's back was drenched in cold sweat. He looked like he was about to cry. A shaky glass of wine was raised with both his hands. He looked at Yang Chen with an ugly, forced smile. "Oh my... I'll raise a glass to you, to the young master of the Yang's!"

Then, he forced a huge glass of red wine down his throat!

Shen Yaxin decided to follow in suit. She pursed her lips at Lin Ruoxi. "Ruoxi, we've been mates for many years. I'm so happy for you, marrying into such a magnificent clan. I'll raise a glass to you too!"

As the husband and wife spoke, they'd already drunk all of their wine while doing their best to smile.

Li Jianhe was ridden with guilt. If Yang Chen really was the young master of the Yang clan, all he had to do was speak a few words to shake his clan to its very core. Even his wife's clan would not be able to do anything!

The Yang clan was one of the few who held the controlling power in China. Ruining a small regional officer's clan would be child's play.

However, even after they've finished their wine, Yang Chen didn't buy their act at all.

Yang Chen only glanced at their empty glasses. Pressing his lips together, he said, "Why are you all in such a hurry? I didn't even ask to drink."

He ignored them, sat down, and continued cutting his goose with a knife.

Although Lin Ruoxi felt like he was a little too unreasonable, she still wanted to support her husband there. She silently took a seat, ignoring the stunned couple.

The room froze.

The showiest, most glamorous couple there was now the butt of the joke!

After being humiliated, the couple dared not fight back either. They could only stare and smile like idiots.

Yuan Hewei and Yuan Ye gave each other a look, smiling bitterly at Yang Chen's brutal comeback. Although they didn't like the couple much, humiliating them was also not the way to go in a situation like this one. To the elite class people, it was a fate worse than death!

Surveying the situation, Yuan Hewei and his son said their goodbyes, not forgetting to invite Yang Chen and his wife for a meal.

When they left, the atmosphere in the cabin grew even more awkward for all the focus that went to Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi. Li Jianhe and his wife were already sitting silently in their seats. If it weren't for keeping their final shred of dignity, they would've left immediately!

Since the beginning of this gathering, both of them had planned to humiliate Lin Ruoxi, who'd hurt them many years ago.

No one could've predicted their initial delight of showing off their status would end up with them risking their family's reputation!

Everyone stared at Yang Chen and Lin Ruoxi. They'd forgotten about their wine, their food, and their brags.

They sat in silence for a long time. Yang Chen had finally finished cutting his goose. He shoved a piece into his mouth, then lifted his head to look at everyone else. He lamented, "What's going on? Why aren't you all eating? These dishes are expensive, you should eat more."

This brought them back to reality. They started to pick up their chopsticks.

It was as if the host of this meal wasn't Chris, but Yang Chen.

Huang Lele was the most naive of the bunch. After the initial shock, she asked Lin Ruoxi cautiously, "Ruoxi, it seems like you have truly married into the most prestigious family in all of China. Are there any rules to being their daughter-in-law? Or do you have any special privileges?"

Wang Haitao immediately pulled his wife back. How could she ask questions like that?

Lin Ruoxi was still not used to being looked at like this. She smiled shyly. "It isn't anything special. I didn't know he was from the Yang clan either, I only got to know recently."

Everyone felt like it was very odd but immediately started to shine her shoes by complimenting that she had a good eye for a partner. They even praised how Yang Chen could seduce the former prettiest girl in university.

Yang Chen grew annoyed listening to them speak. He patted her legs secretly, then whispered, "Honey, when I was selling mutton skewers, did you really see the 'quiet elegance and maturity' in me then?"

Lin Ruoxi almost shoved her chopsticks up his nose!

Lips quivering, she quietly hissed, "Just eat. Don't mention your mutton skewers..."

He muttered something under his breath then continued eating.

For the rest of the gathering, everyone was looking for opportunities to praise them both. Too bad Yang Chen was too busy eating to talk to them.

Lin Ruoxi only attended the gathering as a form of respect to Chris anyway. She grunted a few responses but didn't care enough for conversation.

In the past, she would still make an effort to form good relationships for convenience in business even if she hated these fence-sitters. These days, it didn't matter to her anymore.

When the meal was over, everyone stood up to send them off.

No one dared to ask for Yang Chen's contact number but they had hope that their relationship with Lin Ruoxi might serve as an excuse to meet him in the future. It was the biggest opportunity to talk to the future head of the Yang clan!

As for Li Jianhe and Shen Yaxin, they were long forgotten. They'd already slipped away quietly.

When both of them got into their car, they said a simple goodbye and left the hotel.

On the way home, traffic had eased tremendously. The two of them sat in the car in silence. The car was filled with hints of alcohol, making them both sleepy.

They didn't speak. The noise of the gathering felt like a dream.

She looked at the mesmerizing night scene outside, then turned to the man focused on driving them home. She reached into her bag to take out her Henry Graves watch, examining it once again under the street lights.

Chapter 794 - What If I Can't Sleep Tonight

What If I Can't Sleep Tonight

Its mediocracy, bulkiness, and inability to stand out, pales in comparison to its true magnificence that lies beneath.

Yang Chen noticed that Lin Ruoxi was spacing out while staring at the watch. "Still miss the diamond ring?"

Lin Ruoxi turned towards him pouting. "Stop teasing me like that. I'm not familiar with watches. The Patek Philippe carvings are so tiny, there's no way you can see them if you don't pay attention.

"If I knew how valuable it was, I wouldn't have just tossed it into my bag. You didn't even tell me beforehand. I actually thought you randomly got me something as compensation."

Yang Chen replied, "The other day I tried to explain it to you but you didn't want to listen. You slammed the door shut and told me you wouldn't listen to any dumb explanations, what other choice did I have?"

Lin Ruoxi realized it was her fault, but nonetheless pouted coyly as she taunted, "I don't care, it's all your fault. You should've just told me you had something for me first. If you did, I would've listened to what you have to say. I was so mad at you that day."

Yang Chen was speechless as he replied with a chain of 'ok's, eventually cracking a smile on Lin Ruoxi's face.

He then looked at Lin Ruoxi cautiously wrapping the watch with sheets of tissues, which prompted Yang Chen to add, "You really don't have to overthink its value. I've given it to you, now it's yours. Just leave it in your bag. Anytime you feel like checking the time or the date just give it a look, you don't have to intentionally store it."

"What... I can't do that! This is expensive. If I break it the avid watch collectors would hate me!" Lin Ruoxi said with a frown.

Yang Chen shook his head. "Why should they care? It's yours. Just use it like any other watch. It's not an antique and it's not meant to be kept as such, it has a life of its own."

Lin Ruoxi immediately recalled something and questioned, "Oh yeah, the present you told me about before, did you mean... this watch?"

Yang Chen quickly denied. "What, of course not. If it was this watch why would I get all mysterious about it? The gift is still underway. You'll get it this year I promise, and I never break my promises."

Lin Ruoxi's heartbeat accelerated. *What could it possibly be that requires such a long preparation?* she thought.

"Aren't you curious as to why I gave you this watch?" Yang Chen asked out of nowhere.

Lin Ruoxi shook her head in confusion. "Is it because it's expensive?"

"Money has never been part of the equation. We're not poor."

"Then what?"

Yang Chen, with a smirk, stretched out his right arm and held Lin Ruoxi's left hand while the watch was still in her grasp.

Lin Ruoxi's petite figure instinctively shrunk, unsure of what he had in mind.

"Although this watch is not the prettiest, clumsy even, but its core, from the moment it was crafted, has been beating uninterrupted for almost a century. While its exterior is no longer the spectacle that it once was, the core is still full of vigor.

"Even after the next century, and the one after, through thick and thin and countless reincarnations, its precious core will stay the same. It will tick the same from the moment it was created to the moment it dies. Just like my heart for you."

The vows that her husband made, left passion and ceaseless love through deep silence.

In Lin Ruoxi's eardrums, the ticking of the watch was like gongs going off in her head.

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK TICK TOCK...

Before she knew what was going on, her pupils felt chilly and damp. It was the refreshing air of the air conditioning on her formulating tears, reactively accumulating against her will.

"You're touched by my words, aren't you? What if I'm just saying a bunch of nonsense to woo you?" Yang Chen playfully taunted.

Lin Ruoxi pouted. "You know I'm still very new with this emotional stuff. Stop telling me stuff that will make me tear up. What if I can't sleep tonight?"

Through her words, it was visible that she had disarmed her ice-cold exterior and subconsciously allowed her bubbly side to take over.

Yang Chen couldn't help but laugh. "Crying helps unclog your tear glands. It can also remove the dirt in your eyes."

"What? Are you saying I'm dirty?" Lin Ruoxi quickly retorted.

Yang Chen faked a cough or two before he carefully replied, "Erm... what I mean is, crying helps other women clean their pupils, but for my baby Ruoxi her eyes would be speckless nonetheless. Take a look at yourself in the mirror. Your eyes could reflect the mirror better than it does on you."

Lin Ruoxi focused on Yang Chen's ridiculous explanation and broke into a forlorned laughter, one that was long in the making.

"You wanna know my story with him?" Lin Ruoxi affectionately gazed at him.

Yang Chen was confused. "Who?"

"Li Jianhe."

Yang Chen contemplated before he added, "If you tell the story, will you still be sad about it?"

"Nope, because only you'll know about it." Lin Ruoxi was uncharacteristically gentle as she spoke.

"Only if you're ready." Yang Chen nodded.

Lin Ruoxi slightly reminisced as she explained, "Maybe you couldn't tell, but back in my university years, Shen Yaxin was a close friend of mine.

"Maybe not as close as Qianni and Yanyan, but she was one of the few classmates I had whom I was genuine with. We went to classes together, ate lunch together, and took all our classes together.

"About that time, Li Jianhe was already a remarkable figure on campus. He transferred from Cambridge in the UK to study marketing finances from Chris, which brought him to Zhonghai University.

"The girls in our campus adored him. He was gentle and distinguished. His family had a phenomenal background. Most importantly, he was extremely talented, which was what caught Chris' attention in the first place. Eventually, he was appointed as the lecturer's assistant to support our learning.

"From that point onwards, he had spent a lot of time together with me and Yaxin. We started with discussions of research, but eventually we went for shopping dates and afternoon tea."

Yang Chen chuckled. "Well, it seems like you had more time for yourself back on campus, at least far more than nowadays."

Lin Ruoxi contemplated for a bit before she continued with a nod, "Afterwards there was this huge rumor circulating the campus that Li Jianhe liked me, which was why he was always with us in the first place.

"But unsurprisingly, I found him to be an excellent person, which brought me to adore him too. Nobody knew about that, besides Shen Yaxin who was my best friend."

Yang Chen at this point was not too enthusiastic at where it was going as he mumbled, "Crush huh..."

"Yeah," Lin Ruoxi honestly replied. She continued, "I had a crush on him. I cherished every opportunity I had with him but was too shy to admit it.

"I was worried that he was just interested in discussing research topics with me, or that he was actually interested in Shen Yaxin instead of me.

"Because of how insecure I was, I even went as far as to ask Yaxin, about whom Li Jianhe was in love with. She told me it was me. She told me not to give up and encouraged me to one day confess my feelings.

"Until one fateful day, he abruptly mentioned that he was about to return to the UK and asked that I accompany him back. But it was then that my grandma fell really ill. How could I leave her in a time like this?

"Nonetheless, my core was shaken. I knew that was the best chance I had to tell him how I felt...

"If I were to leave, who's going to take care of Grandma? Grandma was paralyzed and she insisted on passing Yu Lei International to me. I couldn't bring myself to disobey her."

"So you rejected him?"

"Yes." Lin Ruoxi forced a smile. "I secretly broke down crying because of that. If it wasn't for Grandma's recurring chronic illness, I might have left with him to the UK.

“But I was still hopeful, that maybe we could still stay good friends at least until he left. We could keep in contact with one another, and there would still be a chance for us.

“However... I soon found out that I wasn't the only one he proposed the idea to.”

The ambience in the car at that moment was silent as a grave. Besides Lin Ruoxi's modest voice, it was the invigorating sounds of the engine.

Till that point of the narration, that was all Yang Chen needed to know.

Well, it was without question that Li Jianhe back in the day decided to toss the bait to both of them and let fate decide.

From Lin Ruoxi's perspective, Li Jianhe's actions were despicable exploitations of her innocent love towards him. It left her on the ground, picking up the dreadful scraps of her broken heart.

As for Shen Yaxin, she had wordlessly abandoned her best friend.

Despite being the only one who knew about Lin Ruoxi's feelings, the only one who knew of the actual reason behind Lin Ruoxi's denial, she did not bat an eye when she said yes and left.

The double whammy undoubtedly left a brutal scar on Lin Ruoxi's heart, one that was still haunting her till this very day.

Yang Chen took a deep breath, feeling the atmosphere suffocating both of them.

But he was quick to respond as he smirked, “Pfft, that's it? I was expecting something more exciting. I even got worried that my wife was emotionally entangled with another man, I guess I was overthinking again.”

Lin Ruoxi cautiously said, “Don't get mad at me, I've already left all that behind me...”

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. “What right do I have to get mad at you? Besides, who doesn't have a complicated past? Everybody was young and reckless once. I even found out that you had a crush on your math teacher! Well, I mean, girls they do get mature earlier don't they...”

“You...” Lin Ruoxi blushed as she furiously replied, “I warned you not to bring up my childhood, didn't I?”

Yang Chen burst into laughter and kept laughing for a while. He took a long relieving sigh before he turned towards Lin Ruoxi and winked.

“Lin Ruoxi, I don't know whom you have a past with for the last two decades of your life. I don't care about that. I wasn't a part of your past and I couldn't be there for you. But that's okay, because I know, from the moment I met you that your past is not nearly as important as our future. We will go through this life together step by step, side by side.”

Chapter 795 - Eyes Closed

Eyes Closed

His words were stern with a tinge of his usual playful wickedness.

Lin Ruoxi lightly bit onto her lip. Through the dim glimmers of night lights, she stared at Yang Chen. "Can you drive with your eyes closed?"

"What?"

"Would you crash if you can't see the road?" Lin Ruoxi briefly explained.

Yang Chen was puzzled. *I gave a lot of thought to come up with those heartfelt lines. And you're telling me that's the best you could come up with? Not even a tear??* he thought.

But he nonetheless shook his head and replied, "No, not just for driving. I can even fly a plane with my eyes closed."

"Alright then..."

Before Yang Chen could wrap his head around what was bound to happen, Lin Ruoxi twisted her body and her velvet skin brushed upon his shoulder.

A burst of fragrance gushed upon his face, and Yang Chen could feel that his lips were being sealed shut by a pair of soft, supple lips.

A rush of a cherry sensation flushed through his mouth.

As their faces unified, he could feel his wife's body heat amplify from her embarrassment, which she ultimately converted to a gush of passion.

Yang Chen finally understood what she meant when she questioned his ability to drive with his eyes closed because his eyes were now shielded from sight by hers.

But it didn't matter.

Yang Chen held onto the steering wheel with one hand while the other was used to grab his wife's waist and flip her around.

As their tongues coiled, savoring each other, Lin Ruoxi was hypnotized by Yang Chen's aggressive approach as she went limp like a deflated balloon.

The sound of suckling and gasping resonated through the car.

Lin Ruoxi never knew a french kiss could last this long, especially when Yang Chen intentionally decelerated on their way back. Their passionate kiss lasted for half an hour before they arrived at the gate of their home.

When they stopped by the front gate, Lin Ruoxi stared blankly at the abyss, with tears in her eyes. Her puffy lips were filled with warmth.

"Hey, we're home now." Yang Chen watched his wife still impassive from the aftermath. He was also rather drained from the kinky business.

Lin Ruoxi came back into focus as she gently knocked Yang Chen on the chin with her forehead as she pouted. "I was just handing you a reward. How did you make it last that long?"

"It was long repressed, what can I say?" Yang Chen replied with a sinister grin. "As I said, when we finally have our wedding, I'll eventually move in with you. This is just a little taste of what is in store."

Lin Ruoxi placed her hand on his chest. "When are we getting married then..."

"Anxious?"

"A little..."

Yang Chen was gratefully amused. "Wow when did you become so open about this?"

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes at him. "We've been married for over a year. The whole world knows of our marriage. What reasons would I have to still be shy?"

"I'm just worried that if we delayed it any more, I might start another 'cold war' with you and ruin things. Anyway, the point is a man like you just agitates me a lot more than you should."

Yang Chen defended his actions. "It's normal for married couples to argue and bicker with one another. This wedding... I've been arranging it with a team. When the weather gets colder, you'll know it's time."

While explaining he held onto her petite hand, giving it a little squeeze. "Don't worry about it, I'll make the most amazing, perfect, flawless wedding you'll ever see in your entire life."

"The last year and a half as my wife must've been really hard on you. Serves me right for going for someone above my league I guess."

Lin Ruoxi shyly giggled with her mouth covered as she retracted her hand. "Just so you know, your breath reeks of roasted pigeon and alcohol. Now my breath smells oily and fatty. Let's go, we have some time left to spend with Mother and Wang Ma for late-night television."

As they steered the car into its parking spot and made their way into the house, their previous misunderstandings dissipated in an instant.

Yang Chen took a breath of relief, glad that his bitter days lasted shorter than he would have expected. Now that his relationship with his wife was stable, he was free to deal with everything else in his life.

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma were watching the telly in the living room. Zhenxiu was notably absent, presumably off to bed due to her last examination early tomorrow.

To see the couple return in all smiles on both their faces, Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua exchanged a look at one another.

"Come, come. Sit down and watch the news with us. It's rare for both of us to see you so intimate," Guo Xuehua happily requested.

Lin Ruoxi obediently took a seat next to her mother-in-law, while Yang Chen dragged a chair from the side.

Wang Ma was rather attentive in her prior preparations of a pot of green tea for the couple. For the family to sit together and spend time with one another was truly a rare sight to behold.

Yang Chen noticed that Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma were teasing Lin Ruoxi who was caught staring blankly at the telly, which prompted her to redden up like a cherry tomato. It was a sight that had brought a smile to his face. He had yearned for a simple, harmonious life like this one back in his darkest days.

To have his loved ones happily living their lives was the most beautiful thing he would ever wish for.

While he was thinking about his circumstances, he was convinced to uncover the best cultivation method to optimistically introduce it to his lovers, Guo Xuehua, Wang Ma, and all the people he genuinely cared for.

Right at that moment, on the news came a familiar face.

Yang Chen frowned at the sight of the man that was pretty severely pranked by him not too long ago. It was Wei Tinghao!

It did not take long before Lin Ruoxi took notice too. She turned to Yang Chen and stared at him for a bit before turning her attention back to the screen.

Wei Tinghao was at the center of a press conference, draped in a fitting suit paired with a striking tie. He looked every bit the part he was playing.

The bright red headlines read 'Interpol collab with Zhonghai police force on international human trafficking crackdown'.

Yang Chen had heard from Cai Yan about their joint investigation, but he just figured out what it was about.

Wei Tinghao proudly elaborated to the reporters on how they could effectively crack down on such criminals, in addition to advising families to stay safe.

Guo Xuehua frowned as she saw the news. "This man seems rather familiar, Wei Tinghao. I'm sure his last name's Wei, the son of Minister Wei of the security bureau. Never thought he'd end up as part of the Interpol. He looks rather dignified."

Yang Chen smiled when his mother mentioned the word 'dignified'. He was surprised at how quick Wei Tinghao was able to bounce back from the recent fiasco.

Lin Ruoxi was rather concerned as she mentioned, "The international trafficking organization sounds dangerous. If the Interpol knew they were here in Zhonghai, why didn't they send more people to arrest them in one fair swoop?"

"Interpol can't do that." Yang Chen cut into the conversation.

The women turned their attention to him, awaiting further explanation.

"Unlike what's shown in movies where the Interpol can just fly across the globe and crack down on criminals, they have many procedures and rules to follow when it comes to matters like this one.

“Since the founding of their headquarters in Lyon, France, they have sworn to be an intermediary and unaligned intelligence organization. Their jobs are to support the police force of each country in international criminal activity and arrests.

“This means that Interpol has to respect the laws and bylaws of the respective countries that they are in. They can support the investigation but must rely on the country’s prosecution and assistance. This explains why the Interpol sent only Wei Tinghao to assist with Zhonghai’s investigation, but they will have to defer until Yanyan’s police force makes a move.”

Yang Chen’s detailed explanation perked Lin Ruoxi’s curiosity as she took to question, “And how would you know all this?”

Yang Chen awkwardly shuffled as he replied, “If it wasn’t because they were restricted by international boundaries, the first person they would arrest is me.”

His response left Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma dumbfounded. Lin Ruoxi, on the other hand, let out a desperate sigh. Clearly, there was a lot more she did not know about her husband.

But what else could she have said at this point? She had to see this through and through even if he turned out to be a villain.

After that, they went back to watching the TV, before Lin Ruoxi noticed that it was getting late. She decided to head off and take a warm shower before calling it a day.

Yang Chen saw his wife leave for the second floor which prompted him to spring up and stop her. “Follow me.”

Lin Ruoxi was confused but something sprang up in her mind which caused her to redden all over.

*Is tonight the night we’re doing the lovey-dovey stuff? But he said he’ll wait until after our wedding. Did he change his mind??*she thought.

While she was in deep contemplation, Lin Ruoxi was dragged into a room by Yang Chen.

When she found out that Yang Chen took her to a room, but not the bedroom, she realized that she was the one with perverted thoughts.

Yang Chen, on the other hand, was consumed by the self-declared emergency at hand. He quickly shut the door before turning to his woman. “Babe Ruoxi, from tomorrow onwards, you have to train.”

“Huh?”

Lin Ruoxi lifted her head once again. Her embarrassment had now morphed into confusion as he stared at him.

“What I mean is you need to start training your core. Wake up earlier from now on and find somewhere with fresh air and good ventilation. I’m not expecting you to do Tai Chi or whatnot. You can do anything as long as it strengthens your physical body. Take deep breaths every day and make the most out of the little time you have. You have to improve your core strength by a huge stretch in the shortest time possible,” Yang Chen said seriously.

Chapter 796 - Dull

Dull

Lin Ruoxi blanked out for a couple of seconds. "Why tell me this? And why now?"

Yang Chen anticipated her question, so he patiently explained everything he told Rose all over again including the part where he had to leave for Sichuan to visit Tang Sect with Cai Ning and then return to teach Rose the art of cultivation.

Since Lin Ruoxi was familiar with Yang Chen's abilities, it was not too far fetched for her to believe.

But when he revealed that he could live on for at least a few centuries, and that his appearance would never age, she started getting scared.

She knew what Yang Chen was capable of, but never would she have thought that he had reached such heights.

Yang Chen sighed, knowing that anything else he said would cause her to worry for the rest of the night. But it was better to let it out now than to face the consequences in the future.

"Because you don't possess the same background Rose does, paired with your despise for working out, your body is far too frail. Even if I rejuvenate your blood pressure and Qi, the strength of your vessels and bones are best strengthened on your own. Any third-party help would just guarantee that it will revert back to its original state in the future," Yang Chen patiently explained.

Lin Ruoxi was however still in a daze, in genuine doubt if that was a joke.

After he was done, Lin Ruoxi mentioned something, albeit with a tinge of jealousy. "Are you leaving with Cai Ning to Sichuan soon?"

Yang Chen instantly felt the jealousy lurking within as he chuckled awkwardly. "Don't worry it's not going to take too long. I can guarantee that it wouldn't last for more than a week. I'm not out to waste anyone's time anyway."

Lin Ruoxi grunted for a moment before she sighed under her breath. "Too bad I have a lot to deal with these couple of days. I need to complete several deals to acquire a few theme parks, in addition to the collaboration with Disney. Otherwise, I'd be looking forward to joining the both of you."

Yang Chen giggled. "If you wanna tag along, just leave the responsibilities to Qianni and Mingyu."

"You wouldn't mind if it were them, would you?" Lin Ruoxi glared at him for a split second.

"Because I know for a fact that you would never leave Yu Lei behind."

Lin Ruoxi grumbled from frustration. "I know it doesn't mean much to you, but it's my grandma's expectations and faith towards me. My blood, sweat, and tears are the reason why it stands where it is today. Every brick and mortar in it means a lot to me. It's not just my company. It's the company for tens of thousands of families."

Yang Chen chuckled lightly. "I understand, which is why I never once pressure any of you to leave your jobs. Cultivate as you will, but your life goes on as usual, not like you would improve quicker if you spend more time on it every day."

Lin Ruoxi nodded obediently after his explanation, relieved that she did not have to make the tough choice of choosing cultivation over her profession.

After answering her remaining questions, Yang Chen ushered Lin Ruoxi to go back to her bedroom to get some rest.

When it was his turn to return to his bedroom, Yang Chen picked up the phone and gave Mo Qianni, An Xin, Liu Mingyu, and the rest of his glittery harem a call to explain what he had just explained in general.

Mo Qianni seemed to have found out from Rose as she was hardly astonished by Yang Chen's explanations.

An Xin had been extremely busy these days which prompted her to leave her phone on silent.

As for Liu Mingyu, she had already dozed off early, and upon Yang Chen's interruption erupted into furious rants before she hung up and went back to sleep.

The woman had always been the most independent amongst his lovers. After all, it was Yang Chen who was stubbornly holding onto her in the first place which led to her initial reluctant acceptance of his proposal.

The next day, Yang Chen once again left the house to take Zhenxiu for her final examination. After much revision, the teen's senior high year had finally come to an end, which left her in immense anticipation.

Yang Chen meanwhile chose not to blindly wait for her while she did her test, but instead made a phone call to Tang Wan and asked her if she could meet him in a nearby cafe.

Tang Wan was dressed in an indigo semi-visible laced one piece, paired with her trademark huge shades as she arrived at the cafe. Her mature charm left the surrounding men spellbound.

Yang Chen nonetheless was slightly agitated by that. *Why is she always dressed so extravagantly? I feel like I'm beaten down just by sitting across her,* he thought.

"Can you at least wear a little more?" Yang Chen waited until she was seated before starting his rant.

Tang Wan removed her shades, revealing her mesmerizing facial features in all its glory. "The weather gets warm really quick these days, wearing too much gets me all sweaty."

She was clearly taunting Yang Chen who was left speechless.

Tang Wan smiled ever so slightly. "Why did you ask to meet here? I always thought the only places you ever think of me has a bed by its side."

Yang Chen was left rather dispirited as he replied, "Am I really always that savage in your mind?"

"I'm not saying it's a bad thing," Tang Wan unfazedly mentioned. "If you aren't horny all the time, why else would you want to be with me?"

Once again he was defeated by her cynicism, which led him to get straight to his point. "The main reason I called you here today, well actually initially only Ruoxi and Rose were supposed to know, but you're special. So I want to make it clear to you, right here right now, so you can prepare for it as soon as possible."

Tang Wan saw Yang Chen in his rare focused self and decided to go with the flow.

Yang Chen once again laid out his entire plan. "Because you are slightly older than the others, you will have to begin as soon as possible. The older we grow, the more our bodies weaken due to age, which is why I'll need to start with basic training right now."

Tang Wan saw how seamlessly he made it sound, unaware of the immense inner turmoil of emotions inside her.

When she heard that there was an actual opportunity to extend her livelihood and boost her longevity, the shock was too big for her to handle.

But she subsequently recalled at her previous observations of Yang Chen's never-ending display of magnificence, most notably during her miraculous recovery in his hands.

After a solid ten minutes, Tang Wan made up her mind as she stoically declared, "I get it now. I will allocate enough time every day to boost my metabolism. But I have one request which I hope you can promise me."

"You don't have to beat around the bush with me." Yang Chen frowned.

"I don't want to wait my turn for when Ms Rose is done with the training. I'd like to practice with her."

Yang Chen suspiciously gazed at the woman. He never expected her to be more anxious than he was.

"You don't have to stare at me like that," Tang Wan dispiritedly added. "I know I'm not as young as I used to be. I feel bad saying this but when dealing with a lot of things these days I just don't have the spiritual drive as I did before. Yesterday I was a younger person, and as the days go by I can feel my innocence slipping away.

"Which is why I try to live my best life for my daughter, for you and for my family.

"I know, from the outside, I might seem as captivating and as youthful as always. But age is not something you can hide by appearance. My only wish is to make do with every opportunity life has for me."

"It's going to be extremely tough." Yang Chen gave an earnest reply.

"But is it worth the effort?"

"It will be."

"Then it's set." Tang Wan casually agreed. "We should make it quick. One day when I get old, nobody could physically compete with Lin Ruoxi anymore, that's when you know you messed up."

Yang Chen smirked. "To be frank with you, I never once compared you to Ruoxi."

Tang Wan pouted as she rebuked, "What? Because she's prettier than me? I'm telling you, when I was as young as she was, I was way more seductive than she ever will be. Pfft, she thinks she's so cool playing the ice queen all the time. How dull. Hmph, isn't she just your perfect little princess."

Yang Chen couldn't help but chuckle at her remarks, as he reached out his hand and gave the envious lady a pinch on the face.

"What I meant is, Tang Wan is Tang Wan and Ruoxi is Ruoxi. There will only ever be one of you just like there will ever only be one of her."

"Fine, I'll give you that."

Tang Wan had a slight grin from satisfaction, her suppressed emotions, in turn, was shown through her glow.

Even when they were both heated from passion, it was not the time to act on it.

As the examination ended, Yang Chen and Tang Wan subsequently brought Zhenxiu and Tang Tang back home respectively.

That night, the family prepared a full table of scrumptious food for Zhenxiu. Guo Xuehua fired off a chain of questions to Zhenxiu regarding her exams and what colleges she intended to enter. The results nonetheless would only be released early July, which led Zhenxiu to awkwardly dodge the questions while simultaneously tempted to boast about it.

The merry days went by in a blink of an eye. Yang Chen stopped by the office every once in a while to deal with certain matters personally, while mostly helping out at home as a runner or a gardener for Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma. Other times, he just helped his women train.

Since there was plenty of time to spare, Mo Qianni, Liu Mingyu, and An Xin were dragged into the training as well. Yang Chen naturally had to repeat it all over again, but once they heard the mention of the keyword 'anti-aging', they were instantly on board.

As for Cai Yan, she was undoubtedly in peak physical form due to her profession. However, she was currently dealing with some international traffickers and had no time to participate in Yang Chen's plan.

Ultimately, Cai Ning from Beijing decided to make the call and accept his invitation, having already made plans for their journey.

Yang Chen wasn't one to procrastinate matters like these so he notified his family and the Sea Eagles before his departure. They were only allowed to contact him if they were in a situation that they could not handle without him.

Once that was settled, he went on with his promise to meet Cai Ning at the Nation of the Heavens in Sichuan.

Chapter 797 - Daydreaming Together

Daydreaming Together

It took him half a day to reach Sichuan. The moment the plane landed, he hopped off and quickly ran to the arrival hall where he saw Cai Ning waiting for him.

Cai Ning had arrived much earlier, dressed in a refreshing white blouse. Her black hair swayed gently in the breeze. She wore a pair of skin-tight jeans which accentuated her long, flawless legs.

Cai Ning was famously not one associated with makeup, but her mesmerizing aura of elegance captivated the attention of the men surrounding her.

But those men did not realize that on top of being a beauty, she was also a skilled martial arts expert and a national agent to boot.

“Sorry for the wait.” Yang Chen went up and held onto her hand.

Cai Ning shook her head as her lips curved up ever so slightly. “It’s fine.”

She could have told him how long she waited, but she decided to dismiss it instead. Yang Chen felt a tug at his heartstrings

“How are we getting there?” Yang Chen curiously asked, unaware of where the Tang Sect was.

This ancient sect should probably be located somewhere secluded from society. But due to the age of industrialization and modernization, there wasn’t an inch left on this earth that was still undiscovered. So where could it possibly be?

Cai Ning then replied, “Follow me.”

Unbothered by Yang Chen’s confusion, she dragged him along and left to the public bus station right outside the airport departures gate.

Yang Chen was dumbfounded but wasn’t sure where he should head next, so he could only obey Cai Ning’s decision as they hopped onto an arriving bus.

As the bus plodded through the traffic for the next twenty minutes, Yang Chen eventually couldn’t help but ask, “Ning’er, why do we have to take public transportation? Are you telling me this bus can take us to the Tang Sect?”

Cai Ning was enthusiastically watching out the window at the traffic below before she was interrupted by Yang Chen’s inquiry. “Nope, we’ll get down at the next station.”

A few minutes later, the couple hopped off the bus, but before Yang Chen could wrap his head around the situation, he was dragged onto a different, even smaller bus!

Yang Chen left speechless.

The car had a few elderly passengers, but the seats were mostly empty. The driver himself was quite old and the bus looked like it had seen better days.

Yang Chen and Cai Ning sat next to the partially opened window. As the vehicle clanked its way through the traffic, Yang Chen asked, “Ning’er, that Tang Sect is in the Pujiang district right?”

“Yeah.”

“Then why don’t we just order a ride there?”

“A chartered car would set us back two hundred bucks at the very least, but the bus would just cost us a little more than twenty.” Cai Ning was steadfast on her reply.

Yang Chen was left in a daze. It dawned upon him that he had grown insensitive to spending large amounts of money. Maybe it was because he was married to Lin Ruoxi, that money meant less to him at this point.

But the point was, Cai Ning was not poor to begin with!

“This is gonna take forever, isn’t it?” Yang Chen frustratedly grabbed onto a clump of his hair. “Why didn’t you say so earlier? I would have offered to pay.”

Cai Ning appeared rather dejected from his statement. “You... don’t like spending time with me?”

Those words caught Yang Chen off-guard as he was glued to his seat, unable to fathom the turn of events.

Noticing the tinge of disheartenment in her eyes, he immediately realized that they might have confessed their feelings, but not once did they manage to spend time with one another like a couple!

From Cai Ning’s perspective, this trip to Tang Sect might be a task that Yang Chen requested, but it was also a golden opportunity for them to go on a rare couple excursion together.

That was why the woman was in immense anticipation to embark on this journey together, regardless of it lasting just a few days. It was an experience she was going to cherish forever.

Nonetheless, with Cai Ning’s personality, even if it was to build their relationship, it was not something she would mention upfront.

That ultimately led to the tedious start of their journey by riding the bus, as a means to extend their time together.

As the thoughts ran amok in mind, Yang Chen consciously repressed his grin as he let out a light sigh. “You’ve misunderstood. I’d have never thought of any of that. My bad, feel free to blame it on me.”

Cai Ning was embarrassed. “Don’t you just want to laugh at how stupid I am, to think of something like that?”

Yang Chen scratched on his face as he replied, “Can I be honest?”

“Yes...”

“It’s pretty stupid,” Yang Chen earnestly replied.

Cai Ning’s head sunk so deep in embarrassment it was almost touching her chest.

Yang Chen burst into laughter at the expense of everyone on board as he brought himself close to her ear. “Ning’er, why don’t we get off at the next stop?”

“What, we’re not there yet. It’s a two-hour ride!”

Yang Chen awkwardly shuffled in his seat. "To fully embrace your plan, I thought to get off and then get on the next bus back to the airport, then we hop on the following one that leads to Pujiang. That way we'll have as much time together as we want."

Cai Ning finally noticed that Yang Chen was teasing her as she bit on her teeth. She contemplated cold and hard on ways she could express her dissatisfaction, but eventually chose to just stare out the window and ignore her lover.

Before her reddened cheeks could recover, Yang Chen reached out his arms and encircled her waist from behind.

Cai Ning was wearing a rather thin blouse, which meant that she could feel the heat from his palms. Paired with the masculine odor from the man, it made her heart beat like a drum.

Yang Chen topped it all off by laying his head on her shoulder, taking huge breaths while doing so.

"Don't move, just let me embrace you. We'll daydream together."

"Day... dream?"

"Yeah, stop thinking about anything else. Right here right now, it's just me and you."

Ever since she was young, she had been sent off to the Tang Sect to cultivate. Upon her eventual return to the city, she was sent on mission after mission. Hence when it came to romance, she was a blank slate. Yang Chen's slight teasing caused her to melt into a puddle.

Yang Chen kept his playful side to himself, knowing for a fact that she wouldn't be able to cope. But as time passed, he gradually fell into his own words of procrastination.

Perhaps he thought, when spending time with different women, that his forms of interactions would change to suit the cause.

If he were with that vixen An Xin, casual hugs like these might make her worry that he was 'unable to perform'!

On the other hand, Cai Ning was quiet and reserved. The slightest bit of intimacy would set her off. It was instead soothing interactions like this that could close the gap between their relationship.

Two hours was hardly a short time, but in their situation, it did not feel very long either.

It was already around evening as the couple hopped off the bus. They might not have had lunch, but it hardly had any effect on their wellbeing, as meals were relegated to nothing but life's pleasures.

The Pujiang district was located south of the Sichuan province, where rain and water were aplenty and the weather was temperate.

Standing on a sand dune by the bus station, one could fully appreciate the glory of the city.

Yang Chen instantly scanned the area for his destination. But the land was flat and mostly barren. Where would a secret sect hide in a place like that?

If there was anything out of the ordinary, it would be the thick growth of huge swabs of Masson pine, Evergreen dragonfly, and eucalyptus plants.

"This is where I grew up." Cai Ning rather dispiritedly described a shanty town, that was hardly even a city by any means of measure. "Let's go, Master must have got someone to pick us up."

Yang Chen realized that his lover was rather anxious, but he was not sure why.

He eventually concluded it to be her resentment to the land that had left her with an unforgiving past throughout much of her adolescence.

Yang Chen tailed Cai Ning down south from the bus stop via the asphalt road for a couple of minutes, before they eventually arrived at a modest marketplace.

Due to their time of arrival, the marketplace was mostly empty. The stalls and shops were mostly left unsupervised as their owners were busy in the back playing poker or mahjong.

Yang Chen was stupefied. *This is nothing but a common public area. Where would the Tang Ancestral Fortress fit?*

Before Yang Chen could question their whereabouts, a skinny man dressed in a navy blue short sleeve paired with gray khaki shorts came running out from the preserved meat store. He had short hair, which exhibited a sense of innocence and vigor.

The man's footsteps were as light as a feather, and his seemingly ordinary footsteps had traces of lightness skill at play.

"Senior, you're here!"

The man exclaimed from joy of seeing her, his voice crisp and clear.

Cai Ning respectfully smiled at his presence, before she turned to Yang Chen and started to explain, "This is my junior, Tang Lizhong. He's the youngest son of the current grandmaster Tang Dianshan. He's younger than me by a year, so we pretty much grew up together."

"Nice to meet you." Yang Chen noticed that the man had decent looks, albeit not as good as himself as he presumed, but would make a decent friend nonetheless.

"Lizhong, let me introduce you. This is... Yang Chen, he's my friend," Cai Ning added.

"What friend?!" Yang Chen was agitated by her remark. "Just tell him I'm your man! Unless you plan to leave me."

Cai Ning was red as a tomato, knowing for a fact that she couldn't bring herself to admit to that.

Tang Lizhong also had a steadfast personality as he burst into laughter after witnessing how the situation panned out. "Senior, you don't have to fake it anymore. The rest of us here found out at one point. When you told Auntie that you were going to bring someone back to Tang Ancestral Fortress, you wouldn't expect us to skip the background check on this person right?"

“Mr Yang Chen here is truly a formidable cultivator to say the least. Never would we expect that we would come across a man of his status! But honestly, you don’t look much different from us commoners, though I did hear that you’re a Xiantian Full Cycle cultivator!”

As for Yang Chen’s advancement into the Soul Forming stage, paired with his encounter with the Tai Qing Heavenly Lightning, within the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade, even the likes of Cai Yuncheng was not really sure about the details. In China, only Yang Gongming and Yan Sanniang were aware, which was they thought Yang Chen was only at Xiantian Full Cycle.

Nonetheless Yang Chen was hardly bothered by all that as he casually dropped a harmless joke. “I’m not good with silent weapons nor the lightness skill so I’m afraid I can’t do much in the way of teaching. Oh yeah, if you’re not married yet I can share my skills of how I stole your senior’s heart.”

Cai Ning instantly reacted upon his remark as she elbowed his waist, with a soul-piercing glare she exploded. “Shut it!”

Yang Chen defeatedly chuckled. His intentions of getting close with Cai Ning’s junior was somehow backfired.

Tang Lizhong was the awkward bystander in that circumstance as he forced a grin. He would never have guessed that his senior would end up falling for a sneaky punk like this one. Without further ado, he quickly took to proclaim, “The car’s right in front. Let’s get back to the sect.”

Chapter 798 - Paid for My Flight

Paid for My Flight

After they hopped onto a Jeep, they took a few turns and eventually ended up in a pine forest south of the city.

Yang Chen then realized that the inconspicuous trail ultimately led to the deepest and densest part of the southern forest.

It led Yang Chen to assume that if any ordinary person were to enter the forest, they would almost surely be halted by the guards. It was also safe to assume that the marketplace was an artificial set up to make the whole ordeal seem less conspicuous.

After all, the Tang Ancestral Fortress would require meals, which in turn would require a constant flow of fresh groceries, rendering their reclusiveness an undeniable hassle.

After driving for more than twenty minutes, they eventually arrived at their destination.

The huge stretch of land was covered with houses built with traditional black flying eaves. The center point was a remarkably placed tower that distinguished it from the sea of two familiar buildings.

The frame of the gate was braced by two imposing white marble pillars, and in the middle was a jade slab carved with a dragon and a phoenix with the words ‘Tang Ancestral Fortress’ engraved in solid gold.

Despite the antique houses, there were modern cars of all shapes and sizes, in addition to a handful of exorbitant Harley Davidson.

The contrast had left Yang Chen in a daze.

Cai Ning was slightly emotional as she stared at the nostalgic buildings. "There's still a huge district deeper within. There are also a few other modest housings on the outer circle, which are quite a bit away from us."

Yang Chen then took to ask, "Ning'er, where did you stay then when you were young? Maybe we can go on a stroll around there."

Cai Ning smiled. "Let's meet with Master first. We'll decide later."

Tang Lizhong was upfront with their request as he called upon the couple and took them inside.

After walking past a few dozen houses in a planned row along the white marble pavement, they managed to meet with several members of all ages.

These people were slightly astonished to see Cai Ning again, but barely any took the initiative to greet her. Instead, they greeted Tang Lizhong and even went so far as to joke with him.

As for the outsider Yang Chen, nobody cared to ask. A guest of Tang Lizhong could only bear good intentions to them.

Cai Ning meanwhile was hardly interested with the sect members, but would occasionally explain to Yang Chen whenever they passed by a functional chamber or the distinct rules they had in the sect.

Yang Chen sympathized with her as he was led through the estate. From the brief interactions he had with the other members, he could tell that she had led a lonely childhood here. The only people she had spoken to were presumably Tang Lizhong and the other students closely associated with the master. After all, her master was Tang Luyi, the biological sister of the grandmaster himself.

That explained Cai Ning's disinterest in unfamiliar interactions and communication.

They soon arrived at the guildhall which was lavishly decorated with extravagant designs and *recherché* possessions. In the core of the main chamber was a sandalwood furnace conveniently placed at its center point with a massive phoenix pictorial positioned right above.

Tang Lizhong put up an inviting position as he proclaimed, "Senior, Master Yang, please wait a moment. The elders will arrive soon."

Yang Chen joined Cai Ning as they made themselves comfortable. "There are other elders here too? What, are we having a meeting?"

Cai Ning took this opportunity to explain, "The Tang Sect has always been reclusive in welcoming guests into their territory. The main reason for this has been the symbolic and significant artifacts located here along with the confidential cultivation techniques and remedies that had been kept away from the limelight. If it wasn't for your position as a main god, plus your background as the successor of the Yang clan, the Tang Sect wouldn't even consider letting you into the Tower of Scrolls per your request. So I believe Master and the others are now in discussion to quickly make a decision before making you leave as soon as possible."

Yang Chen was surprised. He expected to stay here for a couple of days but it would seem like the Tang Sect operated with great efficiency.

Just after the two servants served them with flower tea and tea cakes, a series of continuous trotting was heard from the rear hall.

A middle-aged man in a green robe, paired with a finely split mustache, entered first. Upon seeing Cai Ning and Yang Chen sat by the waiting area, he took the initiative to engage them. "Ning'er, after all these years, you have finally decided to come back and pay us a visit. I truly missed you."

"Thanks for the acknowledgment, Uncle." Cai Ning stood up and gave him a bow.

At that moment, a wicked sneer was heard from a woman at the back.

"You ungrateful brat, if it wasn't for this disgusting man, I'm sure you would never have thought to come back!"

While speaking, a woman in a bright, peach-colored long dress revealed herself.

The woman had brows as proud as a peacock. Her face was free from makeup but it had exquisite features while displaying her pair of pupils and her supple skin.

"Master..." Cai Ning saw the woman and couldn't help but tremble from the sight, as she subconsciously kneeled down and kowtowed.

Yang Chen knew that Tang Luyi was a Xiantian Full Cycle cultivator, which explained her youth and vigor. But he did not expect her to be dressed in this manner. If not for her ranting and raving, he would have been staring at her immense beauty.

Tang Luyi scanned Cai Ning top down before she seemed to discover something as her eyes showed a tinge of pride. She then turned over to Yang Chen and gave him a disapproving sneer before sitting down.

Subsequently, a crowd of seven elders between their fifties to the age of eighty was seen gradually settling into their individual seats across the redwood seats. Their eyes naturally fell upon Yang Chen.

The man in the green robe was hardly respectful of Yang Chen from the beginning, and once the elders were settled down, he quickly began interrogating Yang Chen. "Are you Yang Chen, the first grandson of the Yang clan?"

From his tone, it seemed like the Yang clan meant nothing in his eyes.

Yang Chen had planned beforehand to remain lowkey and passive throughout the excursion, so he calmly brushed off his question by a simple nod. "This must be Master Tang Dianshan, I apologize for my intrusion."

"I heard you have achieved Xiantian Full Cycle. I acknowledge that you are a remarkable young man, but I find it rather insufficient to be the baseline you're seeking for the permission to enter the Tower of Scrolls," Tang Dianshan complacently proclaimed.

Yang Chen smirked as he thought, *?These old bags sure are secretive.*

It was because from Yang Chen's perspective, the old bags of the Tang Sect were all cultivators of the Xiantian realm.

Most notably, Tang Dianshan and Tang Luyi had both achieved Xiantian Full Cycle.

And exactly for their inability to measure Yang Chen's cultivation level, paired with their arrogance over the belief that Yang Chen would not have made past Xiantian Full Cycle, they chose to assume Yang Chen was at the same level as them. It was somewhat fair for them to assume so as both parties were kept in the dark about each other's cultivation levels and techniques.

After being invincible for so long, the Tang Sect was true to their name even to this day, which Yang Chen presumed was duly underestimated by Abbess Yun Miao. If they were able to train Cai Ning to set one foot into the Xiantian realm, who was to say that they did not have a legion of Xiantian cultivators at their beck and call.

One could easily believe that the Tang Sect, in a solid attempt to reserve their strength left all the dirty work to the fools of the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade. And if they were fighting for their lives, they would have reserved their very best for the last.

That kept Yang Chen contemplating if the Kunlun, Shaolin sects did the same for the continuity of their sects. But ultimately, his goal today was to enter the Tower of Scrolls. He then said, "Then what do you wish I do beforehand, so that I can access the literature within?"

Tang Dianshan sat by his seat. With an elegant and chivalrous smirk, he took a sip of floral tea, before he replied, "According to the regulations declared, all sects within Sichuan, with the intention to enlighten future generations with confidential studies, shall require the disciple to undergo challenges which exhibit decency, morality, and noble intentions. The process will determine whether or not a disciple is worthy of entering. It is not one that any disciple can enter as they please.

"The intent of such was to one, prevent the corruption of minds; two, to avoid the redundancy of illegitimate cultivations. Henceforth, if you ought to lend a scripture or two from the within the tower, that would be an effortless request, nonetheless. If you are seeking entry into the tower, you are not qualified."

Yang Chen was agitated by his reply. *I don't know what I'm most accustomed to yet. If I don't take a look at all of it myself then what's the point of even coming here?*

"Then what should I do to be worthy?" Yang Chen tried his best to remain calm as he added.

Tang Luyi interrupted abruptly. "You little brat, are you dumb or deaf? What my brother meant is you won't be getting into the tower, so don't even think about it."

Yang Chen frowned as his smile faded. "I paid for my flight here. I'm not going back empty handed."

The venue went dead silent. The overpowering gaze of all these Xiantian cultivators was fixated on them both, while Tang Dianshan just sat there with a grim smile.

Yang Chen nonetheless was completely unfazed. The pressure exerted by these masters was nothing but child's play to him.

It was Cai Ning on the other hand who was able to feel the mounting pressure pressing down on her.

Tang Luyi rebuked. "Oh, from the look on your face you don't seem too compliant. You really think that becoming the successor of one of the four dominant clans means the world is your oyster? So what if you are? Our Tang Sect has a history that goes back millenias. Your clan is insignificant here! Even the clan leader of the Ning's has to bow and greet in the name of courtesy, and here you are boastful and imprudent!

"I'm telling you, even the elders of our sect aren't allowed to enter the Tower of Scrolls as they please.

"Hmph! You think you're snarky that you could blind Cai Ning of her conscience, but the laws of space are nothing but trivial to us. Don't you dare get all cocky with your bastardized term of 'god' on us!"

"Pfft..." Yang Chen sneered as he turned towards the anxious Cai Ning. "Ning'er, is your master always this uncultured? Was this the kind of treatment you received in your younger years? I now see why you choose to stay away from this godforsaken place."

"Shut your mouth!" Tang Luyi was furious. She forced her pupils wide open and released a wave of Yin energy towards him!

Chapter 799 - Free Your Cultivations

Free Your Cultivations

Yang Chen sneered at the suppression coming from the True Qi of Xiantian Full Cycle. Should he have received this at full force in the past, he would have been slightly intimidated. But now that he had achieved the Soul Forming stage, survived one round of heavenly tribulation, and stepped into this unknown realm, nothing like this fazed him anymore.

One broad swing of his arms and the entire True Qi compulsion coercing within the hall dissociated, as if none of it even happened.

"Look, I'm not here to pick a fight. I'm also not interested in your dumb rules and regulations. I've been patiently communicating with you like a civilized person. But you chose to act hostile in response. Do you really think you could pick on me? Or are you just testing the waters?"

Yang Chen's casual retaliation might not have exposed much of his actual cultivation level, but it left a bitter taste in Tang Dianshan and the rest of the elders.

Everyone in attendance was at least of the Xiantian level but none of them was able to detect the flow of Qi within Yang Chen. This led them to conclude that Yang Chen was perhaps practicing some form of demonic cultivation that had allowed him to progress to this point in such a short time.

Tang Luyi's expressions instantly took a turn for the worst. "I heard you have achieved Xiantian Full Cycle. It seems like we have severely underestimated the level of your cultivation."

Obviously, after his subtle showing of reciprocation, the elders in attendance were harbouring second thoughts.

"Nonetheless, if you think that gives you a pass to wreak havoc in the Tang Sect, I'm afraid to say that you are very wrong." Tang Luyi went back to her chilling, hostile self. "Both my brother and I are in the Xiantian Full Cycle realm. Should we team up against you, you stand no chance."

Seeing as though the situation was going to take a turn for the worst, Cai Ning courageously stood up against Tang Luyi as she demanded, "Master, why can't we just have a civilized conversation?"

Tang Luyi's pupils were enlarged from fury. "You ungrateful brat. Are you blaming me for this? Who was the one single-handedly raising you all these years, teaching you martial arts and training you to become a cultivator? Now that you have this vile rascal by your side, you dare to talk back at me?"

Cai Ning was red as a tomato. Tears started to spill from her eyes. "Forgive me, Master, for I had no intention of framing you. I apologize but I don't see the need to defy your promise. Your disciple has brought Yang Chen into the sect for a discussion on entering the Tower of Scrolls. Shouldn't there at least be some form of discussion before this?"

Yang Chen pushed her aside as he held onto Cai Ning's wrist. "Hey hey, what are you doing? Why are you defending me? I can handle it myself, if you ever do that again I'm going to strip your pants and give you a good spank."

"Disgusting scum! How dare you speak such vile comments in this sacred hall!" Tang Luyi taunted.

Tang Dianshan stood up and approached them.

"Ning'er, let Uncle leave you with an advice." Tang Dianshan scratched on his split mustache as he grinned warmly. "The truth is, before I chose to let you bring Yang Chen here, I have already made up my mind to deny his entry into the Tower of Scrolls. It is not a place where anyone could just enter. There are strict rules and regulations to that.

"If any important documents were spread to the commoners of China, this would result in a massive instability within the country! He has only returned to the country for two short years, and his reputation is worse than his identity. How is it that we could allow this dishonorable man to enter the tower?"

Cai Ning was pale as a sheet as she realized that the situation was not as simple as she made it out to be!

Yang Chen was dumbfounded. "So I gather that there is another reason you have summoned me here, and it's not for the discussion to enter the tower?"

"Quite so." Tang Dianshan's loathsome gaze was fixated upon Yang Chen. "We need you to hand over a prized possession that is rightfully the property of China."

"What? What could I possibly have that you need?"

"Hmph, still as cocky huh?" Tang Luyi had a gaze sharp like a falcon as she sneered. "Yun Miao had already notified me that the technique you'd been practising was the same one that vanished alongside Song Tianxing from Shushan decades ago. The distinct pulse technique of Shushan, the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture has not been reclaimed here in the tower.

"It was known to have vanished from the face of this earth, but now in its reappearance, I believe it is only appropriate to return to its rightful owner of Shushan, which is to keep it secure here."

Yang Chen was stupefied before bursting out into laughter. "I was actually confused for a moment there. All you want is my technique."

He had finally wrapped his head around it.

“Oh you guys must have really planned this through. Not only are you unwilling to share a single stretch of any techniques, you want to strip away the only technique that I distinctly have. Abbess Yun Miao, the only successor of Shushan, has not once intended to reclaim that from me. But I see you do not share her sentiment.”

“That nun Yun Miao had been engulfed in chores of her own and has no longer any interest in securing the succession of Shushan. That responsibility now lies with us. Defending and safeguarding the Sichuan-Shushan cultivation techniques are our sole responsibility. Reclaiming the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture from you is legitimate and the rightful thing to be done.

“No one could have foreseen Song Tianxing taking you in as his disciple. Your identity is that of Pluto from the foreign lands, not one of us. Moreover, you have not once proven your loyalty to the country.

“If you want to keep your cultivation intact, hand over the technique now, or else...” Tang Dianshan was gradually more stern in his demands.

Cai Ning at this point could not take anymore. She did not think that it would come to a point where her elders would force Yang Chen to an ultimatum.

Yang Chen reached out and gave her a pat on the back, reassuring her that everything was going to be fine. “Or what? Are you going to force me to comply?”

“We were just offering some advice. How you choose to take it will alter the course of our actions.” Tang Dianshan was running out of patience.

“Then it’s no longer my fault to speak in such a steadfast manner. Your position as the successor of one of the four dominant clans means nothing here. There are many clans out there that are eyeing for that position as we speak. I assure you there are a number of them, my clan would gladly play the role of disrupting the fragile peace in Beijing for the last few decades.”

The tension in the building was escalating in an unprecedented manner.

Yang Chen thought for a while, before he took to question. “I’m rather curious though, as to what your motivation is for all this, for you to be willing to bear the risk by deploying around ten of your Xiantian masters to strip me off my Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture.

“Regardless of the technique and the prowess that ensues, it is hard to believe that there isn’t another technique of equal footing in the world. I’m sure you’re aware that the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture was passed down through word of mouth. And pressuring me and blackmailing me against the ideals of nobility that you guys maintain.

“For a technique that you might not be able to practise or even comprehend, I suppose there must be a different reason you are so willing to use such unorthodox methods to extract it out of me.”

“Enough of needless talk. Tell me, are you going to hand it over or not...”

Tang Luyi had a tinge of insecurity flashed through her eyes, but she instantly clamped down on the interrogation.

Yang Chen waved his hands in denial. "I'm not much of a noble person, but a man's pride should be respected and I intend to keep it that way. Just because you want to snatch it away from me doesn't mean I'm going to let it go lightly. How can I face my women in the future if I let this one go?"

Cai Ning had mixed emotions as she glanced towards Yang Chen before she forced herself right in front of Yang Chen and cleared her throat.

"Master, if you must back us in this corner, then think of me as a rebellious disciple for I shall stand by Yang Chen's side through it all. I will defend my decision."

Even though Cai Ning was rather confident towards Yang Chen's capabilities, deep down she knew exactly how fearsome Tang Luyi and Tang Dianshan were.

"You ungrateful disciple..."

Tang Luyi started to rage. "I see that you're blinded by this vile monster. I believe I should take it to myself to free you from your cultivations!"

As her words dropped Tang Luyi instantly shaped her long, skinny fingers into a claw and reached out for Cai Ning's neck at lightning speed.

It was an elementary attack but was a lethal combination of hundreds of dark and feminine techniques. Even though it wasn't at its peak performance, it was enough to overpower Cai Ning who was short of the Xiantian realm.

Cai Ning was horrified as she panickingly retaliated with dozens of plum needles barely visible to the eye, in an attempt to hold her ground.

As she had yet to achieve the Xiantian realm, counter reactions of any sort were nothing but futile efforts.

The hidden weapon was the direct creation of her sect elders. In addition to the fact that she was Cai Ning's only master, Tang Luyi effortlessly flapped her hair and stopped the needles in their tracks.

Cai Ning could not believe that her own master would attempt to take her life.

Within the split second, a masculine palm swooped right before Cai Ning's gaze as it effortlessly grabbed onto the oncoming palm.

Tang Luyi's twisted palm was gridlocked with ease.

Chapter 800 - Mercy

Mercy

"Stop! Are you crazy? You raised her!" Yang Chen's gaze was fueled with rage, as the situation was nowhere near mediated.

"Hmph. It's because I raised her, that I have the right to strip off her cultivation!"

Tang Luyi was unhesitant in her claims. But understanding that Yang Chen had unbelievable might, she effortlessly hovered into the air once again. This time, she was paired with dozens of concealed needles

the size of thumbtacks, glittering in the light with glows of poison green. She fired them off quicker than the eye could see at Yang Chen's torso!

Yang Chen nonetheless was not unnerved by the attack, which came within range of his person. An inch before the needles would have penetrated his skin, they fell to the ground in pitter patters.

His retaliation left Tang Luyi and Tang Dianshan, along with the row of elders in shock.

They had no clue how Yang Chen had achieved that.

Yang Chen emotionlessly grasped onto Tang Luyi's wrist and flung her outwards. The overwhelming force was too strong for her to resist and she was unceremoniously flung out of the building as a result.

But Tang Luyi was a master in lightness skill which allowed her to regain her balance after flipping through the air a few times.

Even then, Yang Chen's effortless counter-reaction in nullifying all her attacks left Tang Luyi in a daze.

Yang Chen reached out and gave Cai Ning a reassuring hug. "It's going to be fine."

Cai Ning shook her head and dishearteningly glanced at Tang Luyi, then at Tang Dianshan. "I never once yearned for your love and respect. But never would I have thought that all my years serving under this sect would ultimately end up in me getting stripped of my cultivation without my consent."

"You are the sole reason for this. We gave you the opportunity to join us but you so readily declined. No matter, we have many great talents here in the sect. The loss of one would not harm us much." One elder took to express his resentment.

"Shut up."

Yang Chen growled like a lion to its prey.

The unyielding position from Yang Chen left everyone in attendance glued to their positions.

Yang Chen viciously glared at the elder, while simultaneously wiping the tears off of Cai Ning's face. "Ning'er, they started it first. Should anyone die today, it is not my fault."

Cai Ning bit on her lip as she nodded. "Be careful."

Being a member among the Group of Eight, she had killed often. Now that the situation had progressed to this stage, she wouldn't ask Yang Chen to show mercy.

"Hahaha." Tang Dianshan smirked. "Yang Chen, I don't think you fully understand the situation you're in. Even if you have achieved the Xiantian Full Cycle and have a firm grasp of the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture, you are still alone. Let me reiterate this one more time. Unless you want us to rip you limb from limb, hand over the—"

"Bullshit."

Before Tang Dianshan could finish, Yang Chen stopped him, fed up with his threats.

With one single wave, Tang Dianshan and the elders felt a wave of incomprehensible strength surround them from all four sides!

Like a tide from a monsoon, it was a force of nature.

“Careful!”

A circle formed from True Qi created a shield which would suffice from keeping their bodies from being blown into pieces by the astral force. But the destructive strength of the wave collided with their shield and sent them flying to the back wall.

BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG BANG!

Nine consecutive bangs could be heard echoing throughout the room as the elders slammed into the wall with tremendous force!

If they were not all at least Xiantian cultivators, Yang Chen’s strike would have left them in ashes!

“The little brat wields strange cultivation practices. This is unlike anything I’ve ever seen before!” yelled one of the elders.

“Full force!” Tian Dianshan quickly instructed the elders who were still in their daze.

The elders did not hesitate as they channeled the full power of their True Qi, paired with a variety of Tang Sect’s conceal weapons as they charged all at once!

Flower Needles of the Thunderstorm, Poison Bindii, Steel Toad, and Emei Ying Yang Spikes were some of the attacks to name a few.

The concealed weapons were charged with concentrated Xiantian True Qi as they shimmered in blinding lights.

Yang Chen was unfazed as he held out his fist and punched the air in front of him!

All the weapons seemed to stop mid-air before vanishing like dust.

“Child’s play. How could one be so confident with these kinds of abilities...”

Cai Ning, who was still standing behind Yang Chen, gasped in awe for his show of power. She was finally assured that her man would be fine on his own.

Tang Dianshan paled at the shift in the situation. After a quick glance at the elders, he retrieved a small, black, pill-shaped object and launched it right to where Yang Chen was standing.

“The Bomb of Millennia Phosphorus?” Cai Ning exclaimed.

The small object shot towards Yang Chen. However, unlike the last attack, Yang Chen wasn’t able to decimate them all on time as the explosives went off one after another.

BOOM BOOM BOOM!

The chain of explosions saturated the air with the toxic powder.

The radius around Yang Chen and Cai Ning became a death zone.

Yang Chen was impervious to the attack, but for Cai Ning’s protection, he wielded a shapeless shield over themselves. He then gathered the gas into a cylindrical form and spun it till it became a tornado.

“Fall back!”

Tang Dianshan yelled at the top of his lungs as he quickly led his sister Tang Luyi alongside the council of elders out of the hall!

Meanwhile, Yang Chen, having gathered the toxic gas into a whirlwind, shot it out like an air cannon.

Before the whirlwind of poison gas reached the entrance of the hall, a loud rumble was heard. The assembly hall shifted its structure!

The two corners of the stone walls appeared activated by a control panel as countless concealed projectiles emerged.

Countless slender needles drenched in poison shot out from the narrow projectiles as they rained upon them both like a wave of arrows.

Yang Chen was all the more agitated. *“These people really have no intention of letting us live, do they? How crucial is the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture for them to resort to such brutal ways?”* he thought.

But the attacks were all completely harmless to Yang Chen.

The tornado of poison gas stormed out of the hall. Yang Chen with one hand over Cai Ning’s shoulders slowly marched out from within. The ambiance they led was stern and formidable.

Before the needled weapons could lay waste on the couple, the chamber hall made with dull bluestone started fracturing and rumbling on all sides.

THUM!

In a blink of an eye, the chamber hall was nothing but a pile of debris.

Despite the sturdiness of the structure, Yang Chen had broken it down like it was cotton.

A huge gust of storm winds hurried through, and the assembly hall in the center point of the Tang Ancestral Fortress was now nothing but a plot of land.

The other disciples of the Tang Sect had seen what was going on from afar and rushed over, only to be stupefied at the sight.

Yang Chen alongside Cai Ning strolled across the vacant plot, towards where Tang Dianshan and the rest of the masters stood.

Yang Chen took a quick glance at the lot like a sentient overseeing a pit of ants as he sneered. “Now tell me, where is the Tower of Scrolls? If you tell me, I might be merciful enough to let you leave with your corpses intact.”

“You... you’re declaring war against all the ancient sects of China in its entirety!” Tang Dianshan ranted.

“Pfft,” Yang Chen rebuked. “Even Hongmeng’s appearance wouldn’t matter. What makes you think I’m afraid of your shitty little sect?”

“I came for a civilized conversation but I guess that’s off the table now.”

“Those in favor shall live while those who oppose me will die. I have a habit of not leaving the scene with my enemies alive...”

To hear Yang Chen’s mention of ‘Hongmeng’, Tang Dianshan was terrified.

“You... Have you reached the Soul Forming stage?!” Tang Dianshan instantly come to a realization. *It’s no wonder that we’re leagues apart. He has reached heights the rest of us have never seen!* he thought.

They previously had accepted Yang Chen to be a strong cultivator, but they could never align a youth in his twenties as the first to break through the Xiantian Full Cycle!

That was why they had always assumed they had strength in numbers.

“How is that possible? He’s only in his twenties. How could this happen...” Tang Luyi was stupefied at the revelation.

Yang Chen had enough of their terrified expressions. “You guys about done? I’m here to get something, I don’t have time to waste with you pathetic lots!”

Tang Dianshan and company were frozen to their spots, still in awe at how Yang Chen had managed to entirely leap past their cultivation level, rendering any of their attacks futile.

Right at that moment, an old elder with a long, white beard started forcing his eyes open before subsequently giving a warcry and charged towards Yang Chen!

Yang Chen felt slightly ominous which led to him reactively turning backward and clamping down the elder and his movements.

Yang Chen instantly took to notice the elder’s demonic red eyes. He then felt like something was a little off. “All of you... Are your minds being controlled by someone else?”

Everyone from the Tang Sect was confused at what Yang Chen was trying to say.

But Tang Dianshan and Tang Luyi, along with the elders, seemed to be in deep shock as their eyes turned blood red. Their veins started pulsating as they turned towards Yang Chen with malice. Retreating was not an option.