

Chapter 821 - Was That A Joke

Was That A Joke

Only a couple hours had passed from what seemed like an eternity to the members of the Red Thorns Society.

The cruise ships had sailed back to the harbor just as the sun began to set.

Most of the members took this time to return home. Despite the sudden change in leadership, it would seem that questioning or challenging that decision was not an option for now.

Rose was no longer their leader and therefore put aside as a non-issue. However, what struck a chord within them was Yang Chen's requests to have his peaceful life left unaffected. How were they supposed to do that? And to what degree?

In the end, they concluded individually that the best that they could do for now was to manage their subordinates wisely and serve their new leader well.

Yang Chen had Xiao Zhao pass on the news of Chen Rong's death to her brother Chen Bo. He made sure that he knew the reason she had died. How she was an accomplice to Situ Mingze's revenge plot and that she failed before jumping into the sea. He decided to leave out the part where she was eaten by sharks though.

Yang Chen didn't plan to hide it from Chen Bo, nor did he care about what Chen Bo would think of the matter. He had already agreed on Chen Rong following in Rose's footsteps. As Chanel's lover, he must have known her sister had entered the underworld.

Since he didn't try to stop it, he should've been prepared for this. The truth was, if it wasn't for Chen Bo, Yang Chen would've killed Chen Rong at her first act of betrayal.

Moments after that, Rose followed Yang Chen home as her house was still in its rubble-like state.

Mo Qianni, Lin Ruoxi, and Guo Xuehua recollected themselves before returning to the hall. Ma Guifang had returned home from work and Zhenxiu had also come back from the orphanage.

They breathed a sigh of relief upon seeing them.

"All settled?" Guo Xuehua stood up and asked.

Yang Chen nodded. "It wasn't too much of a hassle actually. All it took was a trip out into the sea."

"The sea?" They asked in confusion.

So Yang Chen regaled a simplified version of the story to them. After finishing up his story, the women sighed at Chen Rong's ultimate demise. Zhenxiu was especially scared as she could've had shared the same fate if it wasn't for Cai Yan.

But once they were done talking about the incident, the atmosphere started getting a little weird.

Although they were neighbors, only Ma Guifang, Guo Xuehua, and Wang Ma would occasionally meet to catch up on life.

Lin Ruoxi, Mo Qianni, and Rose had no reason to ever meet. But in a bad twist of fate, they were now gathered together in the living room, awkwardly staring at each other from time to time.

Zhenxiu was excited at this. She wondered what the three women would do now that they were forced into the same room.

Guo Xuehua tugged on Yang Chen sleeves and whispered in his ear, "Son, what are we going to do now?"

"How should I know?" Yang Chen too had no idea where to proceed from here and decided to feign innocence.

After a while, Lin Ruoxi spoke up. "Why don't you guys stay here for the time being? We have empty rooms to spare."

Wang Ma quickly interjected, "Miss, that won't work. Part of the house was destroyed too, leaving most of the rooms in shambles. We'll have to move out of here ourselves too."

Lin Ruoxi made a small o with her mouth in embarrassment. She then realized that she had said it without first considering her own predicament.

Rose smiled and said, "I have a suggestion, why don't we look for houses that we can move into immediately after purchase? We've been neighbors for so long, what's a few more years?"

Everyone was surprised by what Rose said, especially Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma. They never thought that Rose would suggest them to stay neighbors!

In truth, she just wanted to stay close to Yang Chen!

Even though Mo Qianni liked the idea, she didn't dare to support Rose's idea in front of Lin Ruoxi so she kept quiet. Ma Guifang knew it was hard for her daughter so she kept quiet too but silently agreed with the idea.

Yang Chen was just happy and he kept nodding while smiling.

Lin Ruoxi looked straight into Rose's eyes and they just stared at each other.

Lin Ruoxi thought Rose was challenging her at first, but after a small bout of silent interrogation, she decided that there were no negative connotations behind her intentions.

This made her upset.

When did I become so paranoid? So what if we remain neighbors?? Lin Ruoxi thought about it a bit more.

"Sounds good. Since money isn't an issue, let's go somewhere nice." Lin Ruoxi agreed to it.

Guo Xuehua laughed and butted in when she heard that. "That's nice, I'm close with Yulan and Qianni's mom so you kids can go to work and we can accompany each other."

[TL Note: Yulan is Wang Ma's real name.]

Wang Ma and Ma Guifang looked at each other and smiled. They were more than happy to oblige.

Money wasn't an issue for Lin Ruoxi and Rose. The only thing they had to consider was the location.

Lin Ruoxi had many properties under her name but they were mainly used for business purposes. The only real house they had was the one in Dragon Garden and the luxurious villa which was very far away. She had to buy a new one within Zhonghai.

In the past, it was only Lin Ruoxi and her mom living together so they didn't need to buy more houses than they already had.

Lin Ruoxi brought down two laptops and searched through the property agent websites for villas while commenting on them as she scrolled through.

"The house has to be new and fully furnished since we don't have the luxury of time to deal with it. Location-wise, I think it'd be best to stay near the mountains or lakes for its peaceful atmosphere. The highways should still be convenient enough for us to get into the city," Rose said.

Lin Ruoxi nodded. "Also, it shouldn't be too crowded."

"That's easy, just buy the most expensive one." Yang Chen butted in.

Lin Ruoxi glared at him.

Yang Chen resorted to pursing his lips and keeping his mouth shut.

Rose turned her head towards Mo Qianni. "Qianni, any thoughts? We're staying together so you should share your thoughts."

Mo Qianni shook her head. "You guys can decide. Mom and I are fine with anything. Besides, these villas cost millions of dollars, which obviously I can't afford. It's a blessing that I get to stay with you, let alone choosing where we stay."

Although she sounded like she was joking, there was a hint of self-depreciation in it. Compared to Lin Ruoxi and Rose, Mo Qianni was nowhere near as rich. Ma Guifang kept quiet as she smiled and sighed.

"You can." Lin Ruoxi raised her head, her gaze clear as the sky.

"Hmm?" Mo Qianni replied in confusion.

Lin Ruoxi smiled and said, "I know a lot of other international corporations and executive recruiters have been trying to recruit you for a few years now. LV wanted you to be the vice president for their Asian branch. If you were to leave Yu Lei International for other companies, you could have made billions with large amounts of shares in different companies. But you gave all that up to stay with me, am I right?"

Mo Qianni smiled helplessly. "It's nothing much. The old CEO was the only reason I was able to have this future at all. If I were to leave Yu Lei for money, I would never be able to forgive myself."

"Actually, you could've gotten three to five percent of the company shares from me, but you didn't and I'm thankful for that, Qianni." Lin Ruoxi smiled. "I've always thought of myself as a great strategist but never a great executioner. For that, I have you to thank."

Mo Qianni was shocked to hear the sudden gratitude from Lin Ruoxi. The others looked at her approvingly.

Ma Guifang placed a hand on her daughter's back. "My dear, I knew you wouldn't disappoint me. You did the right thing. No amount of money can make up for losing your human heart."

Human heart... so falling for her husband, was it the right thing after all?? Mo Qianni felt guilty.

Mo Qianni smiled shyly. "Ruoxi... I don't know if I should cry or ask you for money if you talk about this suddenly."

Lin Ruoxi pressed her lips together. "Money... If Rose were to ask you to pay rent, I can lend you the money without interest!"

Yang Chen almost spat out the tea in his mouth but managed to keep it in and swallowed it. He put on a strained smile and asked, "Darling, was that supposed to be a joke?"

Lin Ruoxi blushed when she realized everyone was staring at her with wide eyes. She coughed and said, "Stop looking at me and look at the house..."

The elderly chuckled and the room seemed brighter.

Zhenxiu gasped in surprise suddenly as she pointed at a photo on screen and said, "Sister Ruoxi, look at this. This villa seems to fit all of your criteria."

Chapter 822 - It's Him

It's Him

"Xijiao villa?"

Lin Ruoxi mumbled in thought for a bit before saying, "It looks... quite decent actually."

Rose and Mo Qianni scooted over to take a look at the property themselves. It seemed that they had taken quite a liking to it as well.

"Ruoxi, do you remember a project where our company collaborated with a real estate agent on the furniture? It was this one. So although these villas were modeled after Italian architecture, Yu Lei took part in its interior design," Mo Qianni said.

"Now that you mention it, it does sound familiar," Lin Ruoxi replied softly.

Yang Chen seemed to recall having heard of this piece of property as well but was too lazy to dwell in it. As long as the ladies liked it, he was fine with it.

"The prices of these villas start around fifteen million. It utilizes a new class of technology which regulates its temperature using underground springs. There are mountains on the north side and a river on the east side providing it a very peaceful atmosphere. Security is no slouch as well. It is well guarded by one of the ten most renowned security companies in the world. Most of the villas are still empty because of its location and price." Mo Qianni listed out the things she remembered from the time she was handling this project.

Rose brightened up after hearing that. "Mountains? That's great for exercising and training, plus the air quality would be great."

Lin Ruoxi was attracted to the idea of exercising without people around.

“Then let’s contact the real estate agent and choose two villas to move in as soon as possible.” Lin Ruoxi decided right away.

All of them started looking at the locations of each and finally decided on the most expensive ones with the best view. The final price ended up to be around fifty million including all the processing fees. It was an insane amount of money to put into one house but real estate would only go up in price anyway. It could be considered an investment.

Everyone started to get busy with packing and organizing stuff, but Rose and Mo Qianni only managed to pack the things untouched by the bombing.

But the most troublesome thing for them was reapplying for all their identification papers and cards. It was a necessary part of purchasing a house so they had to see to it as soon as possible.

Cai Yan, meanwhile, was at home and blissfully unaware of what happened elsewhere. She was surprised to receive a phone call from Lin Ruoxi. Her lips formed into a bitter smile when she realized that Lin Ruoxi was only calling for her help but agreed nonetheless.

In the end, Cai Yan decided to have the office speed up the renewal process when she went in for work the next day. Normally, a process like this would take roughly three months to complete. But Cai Yan had used her authority and connections to reduce that time significantly.

Mo Qianni thought of it as nothing since she was close to Lin Ruoxi. Rose, on the other hand, was pleasantly surprised that Lin Ruoxi had decided to help them out.

Although she might be putting up a show, Rose still thanked her regardless.

Guo Xuehua nudged Yang Chen and whispered to him, “Son, it looks like Ruoxi is slowly warming up to them. If this goes on, your life might take a turn for the better.”

Yang Chen let out a hearty laugh. “Mom, that’s only because Ruoxi is finally realizing that she has no way of cutting them out of my life.”

Guo Xuehua turned around and told him, “It looks like I’ll be having more than one grandchild. I prefer granddaughters to be honest. Grandsons are just a handful. We only need one to continue the family line.”

Yang Chen turned stiff and his head started to hurt when he looked at his mother.

To be honest, Yang Chen wasn’t even sure of the power he possessed within him. Even if his women focused on cultivation for ten years, none of them would reach a stage high enough to receive Yang Chen’s children.. Even Cai Ning who would soon break through to reach the Xiantian stage wouldn’t suffice.

Yang Chen would sometimes restrain himself from utilizing the full extent of his powers, not because he wanted to keep a low profile, but in fear that his women would distance themselves from him.

They might treat him differently. No longer a human being, but something else.

Yang Chen would only reveal his true self after they had reached a certain stage in life.

Although he wasn't good at many other things, Yang Chen was sure about his cultivation skills and his ability to surpass the norms.

At night, Rose and Mo Qianni brought Ma Guifang to a hotel for the night. They would reside there for the time being until their documents were fully processed.

Once Lin Ruoxi worked through the terms of sale with the real estate agent, they had sent someone to clean the house and install the newest home appliances to be ready for its new tenants.

Anything is possible in a world governed by money.

Lin Ruoxi packed all the things which she deemed important and selected which appliances and artifacts would move with them to their new home. The mover trucks would then send the stuff over to the new house tomorrow.

Yang Chen had nothing to bring so he offered to help out. He didn't have to worry about his stamina so it wasn't a problem for him to carry stuff from here to there.

Lin Ruoxi was very satisfied with his performance and whispered to him as she walked past by, "Seems like you still have some use in you..."

Yang Chen felt embarrassed as though he had realized his true value in life. It was being a pack mule!

They finally went back into their rooms to rest after packing the rest of their belongings. They weren't able to sleep though, knowing that it was their last time sleeping in this house.

The next morning, the mover trucks hired by Lin Ruoxi arrived and started to move the items onto the trucks.

At the same time, Rose and Mo Qianni arrived alongside Cai Yan after they were done with the renewal of their documents.

Cai Yan was still dressed in her uniform as she greeted Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua cheerfully. "I came over to help with the moving but looks like I came a little late."

Mo Qianni walked forward and said, "I told her not to come, but she insisted."

"Of course I had to come, I needed to know where you lived." Cai Yan pouted.

The three old friends laughed in response.

Lin Ruoxi smiled faintly. "Thank you, you've been a great help."

"Make way, make way!"

Yang Chen came out from the house, holding stacks of old books. He grinned happily and winked at Cai Yan upon seeing her.

Cai Yan chided, "What's up with the silly smile? And why are there so many old books? Are you bringing all of these over with you?"

Yang Chen sighed bitterly. "I've been moving these books non stop since last night. At some point, I began to think it was infinite."

"Oh my, Ruoxi, are you planning to move all the books from the study room to the new house?" Mo Qianni asked in shock.

Lin Ruoxi stared at the tall stack of thick books and said, "These... were given to me by my grandmother."

Everyone understood immediately. It was no wonder that she cared for them deeply.

"Let me help you." Cai Yan offered to help and placed the books in a box carefully.

As she was moving it, something fell out.

Cai Yan picked it up in surprise. "Eh, it's an old photo."

"Is it?" Mo Qianni sounded excited. "Is it a photo of the old CEO?"

They thought it was a photo of her since it came out of one of her books.

But Cai Yan and Lin Ruoxi both frowned upon seeing the photo, which made Mo Qianni ask out of curiosity, "Who is this?"

"It's him..." Cai Yan mumbled under her breath when she recognized the person.

"What is it?" Yang Chen asked, wondering why their faces became so weird.

Cai Yan bit her lip and took the photo. She passed the photo to Wang Ma who was talking to a worker. "Wang Ma, I believe you should keep this with you."

Wang Ma was startled but she didn't have any reaction until she looked at the photo. She froze as her face turned pale and body trembled.

Lin Ruoxi was displeased with Cai Yan the moment she was reminded of something. "Yanyan, what are you doing?! Did you forget what granny told us when we were young? Never mention him! Why did you hand Wang Ma that photo!?"

Chapter 823 - Guess

Guess

Cai Yan stood still awkwardly, flustered from Lin Ruoxi's sudden outburst, "I... I didn't... I didn't mean to do it on purpose."

"It's alright." Wang Ma rubbed her eyes and forced a smile before shoving the photo into her pocket.

"Miss, don't blame Miss Cai Yan. She was only looking out for me."

Lin Ruoxi walked over and held Wang Ma's hand. "Wang Ma, don't be upset. You still have me with you. The past is the past and cannot be changed."

Everyone was shocked to witness this scene.

They'd never expect Lin Ruoxi to comfort someone so warmly!

It wasn't unexpected, however, as Wang Ma was the one who had raised Lin Ruoxi since young.

Yang Chen was confused to see Cai Yan's face filled with guilt as Wang Ma shed tears.

What kind of past was Wang Ma hiding? What kind of past required such secrecy that they had to keep it shut from young?

Yang Chen was certain that it happened before Lin Ruoxi and Cai Yan entered middle school when he saw how confused Mo Qianni looked. That would place Wang Ma in her thirties.

Wang Ma was able to hold it in but couldn't control it anymore when Lin Ruoxi came to console her.

"Miss... I... Please allow me to rest inside for a while. I'll be back later." Wang Ma wiped her tears and ran inside.

Everyone could feel the sadness emanating from her as they watched her run in.

Lin Ruoxi glanced over at Cai Yan who was playing with her fingers and sighed but decided not to say anything.

Yang Chen asked, looking puzzled, "What's going on, who's the person in the photo?"

"Don't pry any further if you don't wish to upset Wang Ma." Lin Ruoxi warned in a cold tone.

Cai Yan continued to move the books quietly in fear and silence.

Guo Xuehua and Ma Guifang exchanged puzzled looks with each other. They'd been friends with Wang Ma for a while now but they never imagined that she had a past so secretive that one mention of it would make her cry!

Anyhow, they were forced to move on from this incident because of Lin Ruoxi.

After a tireless afternoon, they had finally shifted all their belongings into their new villa.

Cai Yan had to return to the police station for work but it was clear to Yang Chen that she had left in order to avoid seeing Wang Ma.

Yang Chen moved all the stuff into the house with the workers after the official documents were signed.

The new house was located on the north side near the mountains and because of the heightened grounds, there were only a few villas nearby. It was surrounded by lots of trees, fountains, and also a bronze statue.

The interior of the villa was a combination of classic and trendy designs. The well-integrated design of colors and furniture made it truly feel like a home.

The underground garage was similar to the one in Dragon Garden. It was wide enough to store over twenty cars making it sufficient to house Lin Ruoxi's car collection.

That night, they celebrated their moving in with a sumptuous dinner.

But since they did not have the time to buy ingredients, the two families decided to eat dinner together in a nearby restaurant since no one felt like going grocery shopping.

Yang Chen sat in the driver's seat of Lin Ruoxi's Lexus LX570 and left for Rose's house after Lin Ruoxi, Zhenxiu, and the elderly got into the car.

Although they were considered neighbors, it still wasn't too close due to the layout of the villas.

Yang Chen was about to pass by an intersection when a black Land Rover stopped nearby.

He and Lin Ruoxi recognized the familiar limited-edition Land Rover immediately!

At the same time, the person sitting in the Land Rover also saw both of them!

The car window lowered and a young girl looked out. She shouted excitedly at them, "Uncle! Sister Ruoxi! Why are you guys here!?"

Something struck Yang Chen's mind when he saw Tang Tang, Tang Wan, and the Land Rover!

Shit! Didn't I come here before to visit Tang Tang and Tang Wan?!? he thought.

He became neighbors with them without even knowing!

Yang Chen didn't know if he should laugh or cry. Lin Ruoxi would most definitely assume that he had hidden it from her!

"Eh, could it be that Uncle and Sister Ruoxi were the ones who moved in earlier? You guys are the new neighbors?" Tang Tang chided. "Seriously Uncle, you should've told us earlier! You did it on purpose right! You knew mom and I lived here. Were you going to surprise us?"

Yang Chen froze as he felt a cold gaze directed towards him!

Lin Ruoxi immediately assumed that Yang Chen had hidden the fact that Tang Wan and her daughter lived here too!

Yang Chen turned around with a bitter smile. "Dear, if I were to say that I really forgot that Tang Wan lives here, would you... believe me?"

"Guess?" Lin Ruoxi spoke through gritted teeth.

Yang Chen gulped, "I guess not."

"You've got some balls pulling this stunt. Will I find out tomorrow that Mingyu and An Xin are our neighbors too?" Lin Ruoxi sneered in response.

Yang Chen shuddered and dared not to reply.

Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma pretended to have heard nothing. Meanwhile, Zhenxiu covered her mouth and laughed secretly.

They had to greet them since they came across each other.

Tang Wan pulled over. "Boss Lin, fate really has brought us together. I'm bringing Tang Tang out for dinner and I am assuming you guys are doing the same. Why don't we eat together since we are now neighbors?"

Tang Wan's face was filled with delight. She assumed that Yang Chen kept it a secret from Ruoxi in order to surprise her!

Tang Wan thought that she had won!

Lin Ruoxi knew that if she were to get angry now, she would be losing the fight. So she put on a fake smile and said, "Sounds good. We might not have another opportunity given our busy lives."

In other words, she was letting it slide this time but there would not be another time!

Tang Wan wasn't bothered at all as she smiled at Guo Xuehua and Wang Ma before driving behind the Lexus.

For the rest of the journey, Yang Chen was extremely on edge as Lin Ruoxi felt like a nuclear bomb ready to explode anytime. His heart was pounding hard!

Rose, Mo Qianni, and her mom were surprised to know that Tang Wan lived here too. But their reactions weren't as big as Lin Ruoxi since they weren't friends.

At the same time, they immediately understood why Lin Ruoxi looked extra touchy on that matter!

The two cars arrived at a high-class Italian restaurant nearby after driving on a highway. It was recommended to them by Tang Wan. They were familiar with the restaurants nearby as they had lived there for a long time.

Mo Qianni thought it was nice to bring her mom out for Western food so she was fine with it. Lin Ruoxi was the only one who was dissatisfied. She was thinking about why Tang Wan got to decide.

But when Yang Chen asked her if there were other nicer restaurants while smiling, her mind went blank. How would she know?

She had no idea regarding any restaurants in her old home, let alone some place she was not familiar with!

The building had a retro finish to its decor while certain spots seemed a little more modern.

The whole place felt extremely romantic from the combination of wine bottles by the windows and the dimly lit atmosphere.

The head waiter was a tall young man who seemed to be mixed-blood. He was very familiar with Tang Wan and her daughter as he greeted them gracefully before leading them upstairs to a huge family table.

Ma Guifang and Zhenxiu felt very awkward as it was their first time there and everything looked new to them.

Everyone chatted and laughed along after they had taken their seats. Although Lin Ruoxi never made eye contact with Tang Wan, they were both good at socializing so the atmosphere wasn't so tense.

The wait between ordering their food and having it served felt very long, but luckily the restaurant provided Italian loaves of bread as a snack.

Yang Chen took all the remaining bread after Tang Tang took one of it and started munching on it.

“Can you restrain yourself? These aren’t just for you.” Lin Ruoxi frowned at him.

Yang Chen shook the bread and said, “You guys wouldn’t be able to finish your food after eating this. I most definitely will still be able to so it wouldn’t be a waste.”

Tang Tang pouted. “Uncle, you’re a pig. I can only eat two slices of baked sausage and cheese pizza but you can finish three whole pizzas, one steak, and two portions of spaghetti in one meal. If Sister Ruoxi wasn’t rich enough, she wouldn’t be able to support your lifestyle.”

“Shhh.” Yang Chen was displeased by her comments. “What do you even know of, Little Girl? If I don’t eat a lot, how else would I show off that my wife is rich? And also, I told you that Ruoxi and I are of the same generation! You have to call me brother! Call me as Yuan Ye does! How can you get married if you’re so insensible!?”

Tang Tang took a bite of bread and said, “That’s easy, I can just ask Brother Yuan Ye to call you uncle too. Then there wouldn’t be a problem!”

Yang Chen choked on the bread when he heard that and wanted to spit his water out.

Just when Yang Chen decided to ignore Tang Tang and continue eating bread, he frowned upon witnessing something slightly out of the ordinary.

Chapter 824 - It Wasn’t Me

It Wasn’t Me

It was an ordinary-looking Caucasian man dressed in a waiter uniform.

He was walking to a dimly lit corner and appeared to be serving a dish to a couple seated on that table.

His movements were gentle and graceful. His fingers were unusually clean with finely trimmed nails.

The waiter bowed slightly and nodded after serving two plates of pasta. He proceeded to leave after clearing the empty plate.

The middle-aged man drank a sip of wine before picking up his fork to eat.

All of a sudden, the table shook violently right when he was about to take his first bite!

BANG!

The plate of pasta spilled all over the floor!

“What’s going on?!” The man shouted towards the waiter who was still nearby. “Waiter! What’s wrong with this table? Why did it shake?!”

The waiter kept his pace and continued walking downstairs while feigning ignorance.

Yang Chen got up and said, “I’m going to the washroom.”

He immediately tailed the waiter and followed him downstairs.

Tang Tang muttered, "There's a washroom on this floor, Uncle's so dumb."

Tang Wan placed a hand on her head and nagged, "You talk too much and you're not even married yet. I bet you'll drive Yuan Ye crazy when you get married!"

It was quite obvious Yang Chen wasn't going to the washroom. He wanted to know what the waiter was up to. They passed through the front hall towards the emergency exit located at the back.

The waiter took off his jacket and threw it into a trash can the moment he exit the shop. He opened the door and walked out after doing so.

Yang Chen followed him and walked out with a ghost of a smile on his face.

The moment he walked out of the door, Yang Chen felt murderous intent coming from above!

"Hmph." He raised his arms to catch it as though he expected it coming.

Yang Chen caught a sharp silver dagger right in his hands!

After the waiter exit the door, he had jumped up and clung on to the side of the wall. He was planning to assassinate Yang Chen the moment he walked out!

The Caucasian man jumped away from Yang Chen and looked at him in horror when he saw that Yang Chen's hand was unharmed by the sharp steel dagger.

"It's rude to poison someone who had just come for dinner." Yang Chen snickered.

"Who are you?! Why did you follow me?!" the man questioned.

Yang Chen inspected the dagger and his gaze turned from one of anger to confusion. After much thought, he tossed the dagger to the man, returning it instead of killing him with it.

The man was bewildered by his actions. He didn't run away immediately because he was aware of the difference in their abilities. But he couldn't sense any form of hostility from Yang Chen.

Yang Chen hummed in thought and asked, "The logo on the dagger is from Zero. Therefore you must be an assassin from Zero."

"You... who are you?" ?The man widened his eyes in surprise.

Yang Chen continued to speak, "What does Sauron think he is doing? I remember prohibiting Zero from accepting requests in China! You pretended to be a waiter then poisoned the macaroni which was to be served to a customer! Or... did you betray Zero?"

The man hesitated to answer Yang Chen's questions. "You mentioned our leader's name. I didn't betray Zero. I don't know who you are and where you sourced your information from but Zero has recently been cleared for missions in China. This is my first mission in China and frankly, I'm not entirely sure why you are getting in my way. Aren't you afraid that Zero would take their revenge on you?!"

"What? Cleared?" Yang Chen laughed. "I believe Sauron doesn't have the power to decide that."

The man replied, "Of course it wasn't the leader's command. His Majesty Pluto was the one who gave the command! He permitted us to accept requests in China!"

Yang Chen's face fell when he heard that. "You mean... Pluto was the one who gave the command?"

"Look, it seems like you are well aware of our operations since you are aware of His Majesty Pluto," the man said proudly. "Now that you know I'm an assassin from Zero and His Majesty Pluto, are you still planning to stop me from carrying out my mission?!"

Yang Chen didn't think that the assassin would lie, not to mention Sauron would never betray him. So that meant there was only one explanation. Someone was impersonating him!

Damn it! How dare they pretend to be me and give orders to my subordinates?!

Yang Chen extended one hand towards the man and said, "Hand me your mobile phone!"

The man looked surprised but he still passed the mobile phone to Yang Chen after contemplating for a while.

Yang Chen dialed Sauron's private phone number which a low-level assassin would never know.

Sauron sounded surprised once the call was connected. "Your Majesty Pluto, why are you calling me again? You've called me twice today and now a third time. What a rare occasion."

The third time?!?he thought.

What the heck, this is only my second time!? Yang Chen was very sure of his suspicions now!

"Sauron, have I really called you twice before this?" Yang Chen asked.

Sauron replied sounding confused, "Your Majesty, your jokes are not reaching me. We talked yesterday. You gave me orders and we talked about a lot of stuff too."

Yang Chen shouted at him. "You bastard! Sauron! Are you stupid?! I would never change my decision on something so important like this. Did you not think it suspicious when I would suddenly give a command like this?"

The assassin's jaw dropped when he witnessed all of this. He finally realized who he had been talking to!

Sauron kept quiet for a long while before replying with an innocent tone of voice. "Your Majesty, I... I'm feeling kind of lost now. I have to admit I'm not entirely sure why you're angry at the moment."

Yang Chen calmed himself down by walking in circles before saying, "Sauron... the hidden enemy is a lot stronger than I imagined..."

"Enemy?" Sauron was puzzled. "Your Majesty, what happened exactly?"

"The one that gave you those orders wasn't me but someone who was pretending to be me..."

"What?!" Sauron yelled in disbelief.

Yang Chen told him all about the lookalike that he saw on the sea and also the assassin he met.

"If I didn't come across your assassin who was about to poison a Chinese man, it would've made me very suspicious." Yang Chen sounded troubled. "This person clearly wants to make me an enemy of China."

Sauron suppressed his anger and responded, "I'll withdraw his orders immediately! This is an insult towards Zero and me!"

Yang Chen asked, "How did that bastard contact you and what orders did he give?"

"He reached me using the usual internet channel and he even video called me. I did think at the time that it was weird of you to call me from a laboratory but shrugged it off as no one would dare to impersonate you. He wanted me to sell some weapons and give orders to some of the mercenary groups in the Middle East and North Africa, asking them to carry out missions. Now it's clear that he is looking to instigate conflicts within those nations and blame it on you!" Sauron was outraged.

"He even knows our communication channel?!" Yang Chen's face was filled with murderous intent. "Our communication channel is encrypted, designed by Jane."

"Your Majesty, this might play to our favor." Sauron laughed.

"Oh? How so?" Yang Chen asked.

"We couldn't track him before because he could utilize the laws of space. Most importantly, we had no idea where he was. But this time, he used the internet and he broke through the firewall set by Princess Jane. We just need to ask Princess Jane to track him down for us and we would be able to locate him. Princess Jane might even be able to find out the identity of our culprit," Sauron said.

A smile formed on Yang Chen's lip. "I forgot that Jane was capable of doing that."

"Your Majesty, I'll withdraw the orders and contact Princess Jane immediately," Sauron said.

Yang Chen nodded in agreement. "How long would it take for the additional Sea Eagles members to arrive?"

Sauron replied, "Latest by this week because the Sea Eagles are distributed worldwide so it was tough to summon two teams."

"Alright, you can proceed with work. Rectify any damage done. If they behave unreasonably, take care of it as you see fit. I shouldn't have to lecture on how to do it. Contact me if you can't settle it," Yang Chen informed.

Sauron hung up after saying yes.

Yang Chen let out a breath before tossing the mobile phone back to the dazzled man and said, "Return to Europe. Rest easy, it wasn't your fault."

"Yes.. .yes! Your Majesty Pluto!" The assassin kneeled down with his head on the floor and answered gratefully with an excited voice.

Yang Chen was in no mood to deal with this kind of idolization. His face was still gloomy and deep in contemplation when he returned to the table.

Chapter 825 - A Cold Breeze

A Cold Breeze

Yang Chen was much angrier this time around as it had started to affect his friends and family!

This act from his enemy was no different than a tight slap on his face!

Yang Chen swore to himself that he alone would put an end to that person's life once Jane had found out who they were.

Even the nicest of people have limits that cannot be crossed. What more a devil?

At this point, Yang Chen had realized that there was a potential spot for danger in his life. If his impersonator looked exactly like him and was extremely familiar with Yang Chen's background, wouldn't they target his women and family sooner or later?! What if he tricked them into doing things under the guise of being Yang Chen?

Yang Chen started to ponder further regarding this issue. The members of Sea Eagles were more than adequate to protect his women from ordinary threats. However, they might not be a match for this person who seemed to possess the same powers he had. It would be extremely dangerous for his women not to be guarded twenty-four seven.

Sooner or later, he was going to have to tell them everything that happened, including him undergoing heavenly tribulations in the Pacific Ocean and the encounter with his hidden enemy. How was he going to live with himself should anything happen to them?

He decided that he should discuss it briefly with them as they were only about to set foot into the world of cultivation.

By the time Yang Chen had returned, the dishes were already served and ready to be eaten. The ladies had already started eating while they chatted and laughed.

He decided to prepare them for his announcement. "I have something I need to tell you guys when we get back."

Guo Xuehua asked, "What is it son, why are you being so secretive?"

Yang Chen puckered his lips and smiled. "You'll know later Mom. You might lose your appetite if I told you now. The reality of it is a little... hard to grasp."

"So secretive." Guo Xuehua laughed.

Lin Ruoxi kept her silence as she started to wonder about his proclamation.

Everyone started rushing through their meals, eager to return and listen to what Yang Chen had to say. Upon finishing their respective meals, they wasted no time in paying their bill and left.

On the way home, Yang Chen contacted An Xin, Liu Mingyu and Cai Yan and requested that they come to his house.

Liu Mingyu was aware of their move since she worked in Yu Lei. An Xin, on the other hand, did not know as she was too caught up in her work.

They were both still at work since it was a Monday but decided that it could wait as Yang Chen sounded his rare serious self.

Lin Ruoxi was able to put two and two together but was still unhappy at the prospects of his other women entering her home.

Yang Chen, on the other hand, couldn't care less about how awkward their meeting was going to be. He would risk one night of tension for the safety of the rest of their lives.

A few moments later, three cars pulled up to the front porch of the villa.

An Xin, Liu Mingyu, and Cai Yan had arrived from their respective workplaces. They immediately stared at each other upon exiting their cars. An Xin and Liu Mingyu knew each other but they weren't all too familiar with Cai Yan. When they saw who had come, the whole situation became clear to him. He was planning on holding a meeting with all his lovers!

The atmosphere in the living room was especially thick with tension given the situation but the living room was wide enough for them to relax in their own respective corners.

Yang Chen wasn't in the living room when they arrived. He had adjourned to his own room after stating that he had to contact someone.

Lin Ruoxi, being the hostess, was busy serving tea to the women present. She acted indifferent to the situation but held a frosty exterior.

Everyone was already seated, talking softly since they weren't familiar with one another.

When An Xin, Liu Mingyu, and Cai Yan stepped inside, they looked at everyone before giving a shy smile each.

"You guys are here." Guo Xuehua stood up and greeted them. "I know An Xin and Cai Yan, and you must be Mingyu. Yang Chen told me about you earlier. That kid... Sometimes I don't even know what runs through his head. Please don't be shy, have a seat."

Liu Mingyu was surprised when she found out that this middle-aged woman was Yang Chen mother. But nonetheless, she quickly recovered and paid her respects.

Liu Mingyu and An Xin were shocked when Lin Ruoxi came over to serve them tea.

"Ah... Boss Lin, how can we...." Liu Mingyu tried to stop her.

Lin Ruoxi gave her a faint smile. "There's no need to call me that outside of work. Please call me Ruoxi as I am your junior."

Cai Yan had already forgotten about her conflict with Lin Ruoxi. She giggled and said, "Yeah, we should get to know each other since we're all going to be here for a long time..."

Lin Ruoxi shot a cold glare towards her before she could finish her sentence.

Cai Yan's heart skipped a beat and she turned around while hanging her head in shame.

Guo Xuehua laughed in amusement upon seeing this. "Ruoxi, stop glaring at her. She's scared enough of you as it is. She's just a little too straightforward. It's nothing new."

Cai Yan nodded in agreement and looked towards Guo Xuehua gratefully.

“Hmph.” Lin Ruoxi felt slightly uncomfortable that her mother-in-law was siding with Yang Chen’s lover over his wife.

“I didn’t say anything,” she muttered under her breath.

“Sister Ruoxi’s gaze was so scary, I felt a cold breeze from here,” Tang Tang mumbled while lying on Tang Wan.

Tang Wan covered her mouth immediately. “Now is not the time for your nonsense, you silly girl! That’s from the central air conditioning!”

Lin Ruoxi rolled her eyes. That cover-up was a little too obvious.

She sighed and turned around to ask An Xin, “Say, am I really that scary?”

An Xin was still traumatized by Lin Ruoxi after she’d cried when Lin Ruoxi forced her to compete in the ball-tossing game. She knew that it was right to deny but her body betrayed her words.

“No... not scary at all...”

She was obviously lying!

Zhenxiu couldn’t hold in the laughter she had held for so long when An Xin replied Lin Ruoxi.

She slapped the sofa and kicked her legs up in glee.

Lin Ruoxi blushed and pinched Zhenxiu’s face. “What are you laughing at? I’ve been nothing but nice to you and this is how you repay me?”

Zhenxiu blinked at her innocently. “But it was funny...”

Lin Ruoxi stomped her foot and ran back into the kitchen to assist Wang Ma. She couldn’t stand being in the living room anymore after that.

The atmosphere was much more relaxed because of this funny incident.

Yang Chen emerged from the second floor after a couple of minutes.

Hannya from the Yamata Sect contacted him to notify him that several ninjas from the Yamata Sect had recently entered China and are posing as regular workers in Japanese companies. She wanted to ask Yang Chen for further instructions regarding what to do with them.

Yang Chen ordered her to send a couple of them to Beijing and leave a couple here in Zhonghai. Sending them to Beijing would make it easier to locate the enemy since ninjas were generally better at scouting.

He could search for Yan Buwen’s secret base by himself since Cai Yuncheng and the others were reluctant to tell him.

Yang Chen was delighted at the sight of his ladies in the living room. What a life he would lead should all these ladies stay here with him under one roof.

But now was not the time for fantasies and wishful thinking. There were more important matters on hand. Yang Chen walked to the middle and said after letting out a breath, “I gathered everyone here

today to talk about something important. It is related to your safety and I implore you to listen carefully and ask questions later. What I'm about to share is not so easily put into words..."

Everyone started to feel nervous and uncomfortable when Yang Chen came down all serious and somber. It was a far cry from his regular behavior.

Chapter 826 - Clone Enemy

Clone Enemy

People had been drawn to stories of fantasy and fiction long before mankind built their first towers. People loved the ideas and promises of a world beyond their own. However, in those rare moments where the line between fiction and reality merged into one, there was no telling how they would react.

It was similar to the old tale of a man who loved dragons but was scared shitless when faced with a real one.

Regardless of the stories told, this was bound to be a sleepless night for the women in the room.

They continued to talk until the wee hours of the morning before each leaving in their own separate ways. Everything Yang Chen had told them sounded so surreal. It wouldn't come as a shock to them if they woke up the next day and realized it was all a dream.

It wasn't Yang Chen's incredible powers that had them shook. It was about his clone and how powerful it was shaping up to be! How was anyone supposed to digest that kind of information in one night?

Lucky for them, Yang Chen came prepared. He had given them a secret confirmation code which was used to verify his identity when he called. He also promised that reinforcements were coming to protect them.

But the ones who did not come mentally prepared were left in a state of disarray. Their minds were racing at a hundred miles per hour but were completely blank at the same time.

Tang Tang and Zhenxiu looked at him in anticipation, begging for Yang Chen to teach them about cultivation too.

Yang Chen didn't mind teaching them since their success was entirely upon themselves.

But like the others, he told them that cultivation was a game of patience and perseverance.

Yang Chen was planning on teaching the older women in his family as well, but due to their old age and more fragile bodies, the most he could do was strengthen their cores.

Yang Chen was more focused on Lin Ruoxi's attitude during this gathering.

He noticed that Lin Ruoxi was starting to accept his lovers despite still being upset when he favored talking to them over her.

Excluding Cai Ning, it was actually the first time all his lovers had met each other. They were all friendly to one another and did not quarrel as most people would have expected.

Four days later on the twenty-second of June, the summer solstice had rolled around.

The two teams from the Sea Eagles had arrived in Zhonghai and partnered up with Molin's team. They had been ordered to protect Yang Chen's lovers and family members.

The latest equipment they had was brought in via the military and were much stronger than the ones they had before so he gave each one of the ladies a tracking device made with nanotechnology. It was easy to carry around and they could send him their location if they were ever in danger. Yang Chen even went so far as to plant one on himself in order to distinguish himself from the clone.

The annoying thing was that the bastard never appeared after all the preparations were made. Yang Chen had nowhere to release his anger on so he went to Tang Wan, Rose, and Mo Qianni's rooms and was caught once by Lin Ruoxi when she knocked on the door. Needless to say, he suffered her silence the very next day.

The hill behind the Xijiao Villas was covered with trees and shrubbery.

There was no road leading up the hill. There was only a small footpath created by the workers who installed the iron pylon on the top of the hill.

And on the top of the hill was a perfectly flat yellow platform made of mud. It was around a hundred square meters in size and it looked as though the hilltop was shaved off.

In the middle of it all was a wooden platform with a woman sitting on it.

Rose was sat there cross-legged, wearing a white T-shirt and red jogging shorts. Her eyes were closed and she was completely unfocused on the world around her.

Yang Chen had taught the foundations of cultivation to Rose and Cai Yan seeing as though their bodies were fit enough to begin.

Rose would run up the hill everyday and cultivate according to the technique she had learned after her physical training.

In the beginning, she was quite skeptical about her progress. But as time went by, she soon realized how far she had actually come!

She was already able to feel the flow of Qi within her body!

Yang Chen was genuinely surprised because although it was a very simple technique, achieving it on the first try meant that there was great potential for the person in the future!

Rose became exceptionally hard working after that, and in just three days she was able to see physical changes. In the past, running up the hill would leave her out of breath and gasping for air. Now she was able to run up the hill without breaking a sweat!

The special technique that Yang Chen created was based on the scrolls he had read in the Tower of Scrolls and his own perspective towards the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture. It was safe to say that it was a far cry from the normal way of practising cultivation!

Because the sects that wrote the books were mostly in the Xiantian realm, the limit of their teachings only stretched to ones of that realm. But the world that Yang Chen lived in was completely different. He

was privy to information only available to those living above the Xiantian realm. That was why things were progressing much faster than normal for Rose!

Rose opened her eyes and sighed. Grey clouds started to form and lightning started to flash. She had to cut her training an hour short and head down, lest she be caught in a storm.

According to Yang Chen, they didn't need to cultivate for hours on end but it was best that they did it where the air was fresh. Silence also helped with their focus on the training.

Rose was about to stand up when a voice made her stop.

"Don't get up! Continue cultivating!"

Rose turned back and was surprised to see Yang Chen standing behind her back.

"Hubby, why are you here?" Rose was surprised but was suddenly reminded of something and she said, "How long should we make eye contact for?"

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "Ten seconds."

Rose let out a breath and smiled. "You scared me, I thought the clone came. Why did you come?"

Yang Chen laughed. "Even if he did come, he would've done so while you were busy sleeping."

"Hubby, how long have you been here for?" Rose asked curiously.

Yang Chen nodded. "I came two days ago too. I was worried since you just started cultivating, but I didn't want to disturb you. Rose my darling, don't get up, just continue cultivating."

Rose hesitated. "But a thunderstorm is coming."

"We want that." Yang Chen explained, "Thunder, rain, and snow are the best representatives of the laws of Heaven and Earth. If you cultivate while simultaneously experiencing these phenomena, you can expect to see greater changes. The biggest difference between the technique I taught you and conventional ones is that other techniques base themselves on plundering the Heavens and the Earth while mine is based on allowing the two to live in harmony. It might sound easy but it actually takes a great deal of perception to get it right."

"Cultivation is different from martial arts. While they both practise the strengthening of your Qi, cultivation prioritizes rising through the realms. Once you achieve that, everything else is a piece of cake. There's no way to achieve reaching the Xiantian realm by just cultivating Qi. Understanding the laws of the Heavens and the Earth is another part of it. And that is the part where it is all up to you. I cannot help you understand something that is unique to everyone."

Yang Chen clearly remembered the day he entered the Soul Forming stage of his cultivation. He had sat under the rain for an entire day and gained realization from an ant colony. Although Rose might not gain the same enlightenment as himself, it wouldn't hurt to try.

Rose nodded, albeit unsure of what he was getting at. She sat down and closed her eyes, waiting for the thunderstorm patiently.

Yang Chen stayed beside her and observed Rose's cultivation. He used this time as a way to perfect his teaching methods and see where else he could have improved in his explanations.

A few moments later, the rain started pouring after a deafening roar was heard.

The rain poured and the trees shook under the strong wind.

Rose sat still as her clothes started to get drenched by the rain. She frowned as the rainwater dripped down, causing her hair to stick to her face. About ten minutes later, Rose stopped frowning and seemed to be focused on something else.

She looked like a grain of sand amidst a large desert.

Slowly, Rose had forgotten of her surroundings as she used her Qi and performed the cultivation technique.

Every time a raindrop came in contact with her skin, she was able to not just know it was present but feel its delicate presence.

As more and more time passed, the rain gradually faded into a trickle and the deafening thunder softened into a gentle rumble.

Droplets of water dangled off Rose's trembling eyelashes as she opened her eyes to the sound of chirping birds.

Chapter 827 - I Don't Care Who He Is

I Don't Care Who He Is

When she opened her eyes, Yang Chen brought himself to her front and lowered his body until they were at eye level. He too was drenched after standing in the rain while accompanying her.

"How was it? Do you feel any different?" Yang Chen asked gently.

Rose raised her head and mumbled, "The raindrops that I saw weren't the same ones which fell before me..."

"Hmm?"

Rose pouted as she replied in a confused tone, "I felt something but I can't pinpoint what it was exactly."

Yang Chen smiled. "It's okay. At least this is an improvement over the last time. Take it one step at a time. Even though I have provided you with an accelerated course, these things are still best accomplished with time and patience."

"Okay!" Rose smiled gleefully and stood up slowly.

Her wet clothes clung to her body because of the rain causing her hard nipples to protrude from it.

Raindrops continued to drip down her hair which made her fair and delicate face look much more attractive.

Yang Chen couldn't help but stare at her being. The vague hints of sweet promises were much more enticing to him than her being naked.

Rose tossed him a flirtatious wink when she noticed Yang Chen staring at her. "Hubby, let's go before your eyeballs fall out of their sockets."

Yang Chen slapped her buttocks which rang out on the open platform.

"What are you doing, acting like a vixen so early in the morning? If it wasn't for the mud, I would have eaten you up right here!"

Rose giggled and walked off. She was about to make her way down when she froze in her steps. The path in front of her had turned into mud due to the rain. This would result in her white sneakers turning yellow.

More importantly, Rose, like every other woman, disliked the thought of being dirty by trudging through the mud.

She turned around and asked Yang Chen in a small voice, "Hubby... can you carry me on your back down the hill?"

Yang Chen contemplated for a while and immediately understood her motive.

He shook his head after some hesitation. "No, I won't."

Rose then assumed Yang Chen had his reasons for it and nodded albeit disappointed at the result.

But before she could turn around, Yang Chen lifted her and gave her a princess hug!

"Ah!" Rose exclaimed. She was clearly not expecting Yang Chen to lift her up!

She asked Yang Chen in surprise while hooking her arms around his neck, "I thought you didn't want to carry me."

"Yes I didn't want to carry you, but I did want to hug you." Yang Chen smiled as he walked.

"Why a hug..."

Yang Chen winked. "This way, I can stare at your face for as long as I want to."

Rose lifted her body and kissed him, touched by his words.

She then licked her lips and said to him seductively, "There are other things we can do too..."

Soon enough, the clouds cleared up and the sun shone through the fog that had gathered. The hill was once again presented in all its green glory.

After descending from the hill, they continued to chat until they were home. Yang Chen drove off to Yu Lei Entertainment after seeing Rose to her door.

When he arrived at the office, he noticed a tall, lean beauty working at a table beside his desk. She stood up immediately and bowed down to him the moment she saw him.

"Good morning, Master."

The beauty had a mature but attractive face with thick arched eyebrows and full red lips. It was none other than the current leader of the Yamata Sect, Hannya!

Ever since the elites from the Yamata Sect were given the green light to enter China, Hannya dug up an excuse to remain by Yang Chen's side. She claimed it would be easier to watch over her subordinates if she could monitor them from Zhonghai.

Yang Chen knew she would never be able to mentally distinguish her servitude and her personal life due to her training by Noriko Okawa who only taught her to listen and obey. The final nail in the coffin was when he took her virginity with his own hands.

The moment Noriko Okawa died, she was free but felt extremely uncomfortable without a master. This resulted in the woman pouring her heart and soul in hopes to repay Yang Chen for his deeds to her.

Yang Chen had her replace An Xin since it would make things easier for all of them if she was by his side.

It was approved by Lin Ruoxi and she didn't hesitate even when Yang Chen told her about Hannya's true identity. Her generosity in situations that involved their own safety impressed Yang Chen even till this day.

It seemed like she was holding in her dissatisfaction of the situation due to a more pressing matter of security at hand.

Hannya was better than Yang Chen when it came to managing an entertainment agency since she managed Yamata Sect.

The only reason Yang Chen had even come to work at all was to receive his usual updates from Sea Eagles and Yamata Sect.

Yang Chen asked as he sat down, "Any updates?"

Hannya answered him earnestly, "The ninjas in Beijing had already found three secret military research laboratories. But we cannot confirm nor deny anything as of late due to the tight security employed by these bases. If those three places aren't Yan Buwen's laboratories, we'll have to expand our search to nearby cities or consider other provinces."

Yang Chen nodded. "What about Yan Buwen and the Yan clan?"

"Master, Yan Buwen had disappeared from the public for almost two weeks now. We are unable to obtain his location. As for the Yan clan, they seem to be going through an internal conflict. The head of Yan clan who so happens to be Yan Buwen's grandfather and the vice premier of China, Yan Qingtian, has been absent from several conferences due to some illnesses. According to our sources, his leave of absence was due to his personal mission to find Yan Buwen. It would seem that even the core members of the Yan clan are not aware of the reason for Yan Buwen's disappearance."

Yang Chen smiled faintly. "What an interesting fellow. I would have loved to get to know him. Too bad he's on the opposing side of our conflict."

Hannya asked, "Master, Princess Jane hasn't confirmed that he was the culprit who broke down the firewall. Also, why would he hold a grudge against you? What makes you so sure he is the culprit?"

“One look at him was all I needed to confirm his actions,” Yang Chen stated lightly.

Hannya was confused. She evidently didn't understand what he meant.

Yang Chen glanced at her and asked, “Hannya, are you scared of me?”

Hannya couldn't help but shiver and look down. Her chin was tucked so far down it reached her busty chest. “Yes.”

“That's it then,” Yang Chen laughed dryly. “You're afraid of me because you know my past. You know the things I have done to get to where I am today. Not only you, but Sauron, Makedon, Ron, and the others are all afraid of me as well. So despite treating them like friends, I didn't truly have any real friends before coming to China.”

Hannya raised her head and asked in surprise, “Could it be that... Yan Buwen isn't afraid of you?”

Yang Chen nodded. “He isn't. Despite having access to my past, I couldn't sense an ounce of fear within him. He's a genius who could rival Jane in almost every aspect. When we met, he treated me as if we were equals. He even went so far as to provoke me. I knew that he was an unusual one but I did not think that he would target me of all people. I've just been curious as to where he got his confidence from and why he holds such a grudge against me.”

Hannya seemed to have understood and told him sincerely, “Master, you're definitely stronger than Yan Buwen! He's just being ignorant!”

Yang Chen was stunned at first and couldn't help but laugh when he saw how serious she was acting.

Soon after, Yang Chen's mobile phone rang and he knew who the caller was when he saw the UK country code.

“Jane, you have the results?”

Jian yawned and replied with a lazy tone, “You were right. He accessed the channel from Beijing but I can only be sure that it was in the northwest area. I couldn't track him any further since he did not use a normal IP address. But it is safe to say he is the one behind all this. There's no one else in China capable of doing this. If there were, China must be the birthplace of all geniuses.”

“Northwest...” Yang Chen then turned to ask Hannya, “Are there any military research laboratories located in the northwest region?”

Hannya nodded hurriedly. “Yes, there's one. It is located deep within the mountains and is the most difficult to access.”

Yang Chen grinned. “Seems to me that the tables have turned...”

“Yang Chen, are you really planning on attacking him? His influence in China is not an insignificant one. Many people will not let it slide so easily,” Jane asked, her voice filled with worry.

“Hmph, I don't care who he is. He messed with my life so he has to face the consequences. I would have killed him sooner if not for the act that he was so good at hiding. Did the Yellow Flame Iron Brigade really think they could dissuade me just by saying no?” Yang Chen scorned.

His eyes were filled with murderous intent which made even an assassin like Hannya take a few steps back, recoiling in fear.

Chapter 828 - Submit to Him

Submit to Him

Yang Chen stood up to leave for Beijing. He was in no mood to wait after receiving confirmation from Hannya.

But before he could leave, a sharp noise emitted from his mobile phone!

His mobile phone was modified with an alarm system so whenever a Sea Eagles member wished to report a situation or the ladies activated their device, his mobile phone would notify him!

His heart dropped when he realized that the alarm originated from An Xin's location!

What a coincidence for the clone to appear the second after Yang Chen found his location!

Meanwhile, something else was going on in the clan master's bedroom in the An clan estate.

That room became An Xin's property after An Zaihuan had been sent to prison.

The windows were originally closed and the only signs of movement were the pink curtains gently swaying in the wind of the air conditioning unit. But now, it seemed that the window was being forced open by someone!

It was an ordinary-looking young man wearing a tight-fitted black t-shirt and light jeans. His lips curled into a smirk as he cocked his head to one side.

Sunlight streamed through the windows causing his shadow to appear especially menacing!

An Xin was still in her sleeping gown. Her face was filled with panic. Her dewy eyes widened as she retreated backward slowly...

She didn't have to show up at work since she alone managed her own schedule. Being the chairman had its perks.

Normally, she would get up by eight in the morning and only practise cultivation after work. Yang Chen had agreed to it, although he wasn't too fond of it.

As she slowly speculated and drowned herself in her own thoughts, a loud metallic crack resounded from the window. The next thing she knew, the windows were forced open from the outside!

The perpetrator made his movements loud and big as if putting on a show.

She froze when she turned around and saw his face!

Yang Chen?!? she thought.

"Hub—"

She was about to call out to him when she realized that something was wrong!

Although he looked exactly like Yang Chen, there was no hint of kindness and his expression was as wicked as a venomous snake!

“You... Are you the clone?!”

An Xin yelped in shock and rolled down the bed immediately. She stepped back and pressed a button on her bracelet.

Even if she didn't press the alarm herself, the Sea Eagles team were already aware of the situation.

However, they could only remain in hiding under Yang Chen's orders. He ordered them to only notify him and stay away from attacking the clone head on.

“Hmph.” The fake Yang Chen smirked. “Relax, I have no interest in killing you. Humiliating you in front of him would be much better, wouldn't it?”

An Xin's mind went blank. Her lips trembled and she turned ghastly pale.

Suddenly, someone swooped in and grabbed the neck of the imposter and lifted him off the ground!

“Humiliate? You mean yourself?”

It was Yang Chen who had teleported here!

Yang Chen's rage had reached new levels. His murderous intent was shooting out of his eyes like laser beams!

An Xin gleamed and let out a breath in relief.

The clone panicked from his sudden attack but he hid it with a snee..

“We'll have to see about that, Pluto. Now... die!”

The space surrounding them suddenly shifted and multiple pockets were created from the torn space!

Yang Chen didn't bat a single eyelash and summoned upon the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy. He used it to create a shield encompassing both himself and An Xin!

Even so, the area around them still shattered into pieces!

Yang Chen stood still and sneered. “I don't know what kind of god you are but your control over the laws of space isn't very impressive. Did Yan Buwen finally lose his mind and send you in to die?”

The clone said wickedly, “This is just the appetizer. The main course is yet to be served...”

Something flashed through Yang Chen's mind. He felt a sense of foreign disordered chaos ring out in his head!

Yang Chen yelped but it was too late!

A burst of energy made his body turn stiff in an instant. The immense pressure felt as if it were threatening to rip his body to shreds and drain him of his blood!

This formless energy felt very similar to his Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy. They both came silently and formlessly!

But the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy were mystical in the sense where it disintegrated everything without a trace. This form of energy used coagulated its victims instead!

“Die!”

The clone shouted and kicked him with the mysterious energy while Yang Chen stood there like a statue!

Yang Chen shifted his body and shattered the power holding him in place. He summoned the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy and revolved the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture!

He waved his palm out in midair and pointed it straight towards the clone!

“You’re the one who’s going to die today!”

The clone faced him head-on with his mysterious power. But the moment both their energies collided with each other, the stronger Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy shattered the mysterious energy apart!

It burst into pieces like an egg which was thrown against a boulder!

The clone’s eyeballs almost popped out of their sockets in horror. In the next second, Yang Chen’s palm landed onto him and crushed him into a pool of blood!

Thump thump thump!

The concrete floor of the mansion crumbled under the immense pressure acting upon it. And in the hole of rubble and dust was the clone’s body pooling in blood!

Although all of that had taken place in a matter of seconds, it was still a shock to those who were watching!

Yang Chen descended slowly to the ground like a war god. His eyes were burning with more murderous intent than ever!

The skin and the pool of blood started to rearrange themselves into a new body just as expected!

The mysterious power was like a perfect sculptor. It resculpted a body right in front of their eyes!

The clone looked as if nothing drastic had happened to him, albeit slightly pale!

“You’re every bit as worthy to be our mater’s enemy. Interesting... interesting, you’re stronger than I imagined, new Pluto.”

The clone said to him cockily.

The shock that ran through Yang Chen’s body was nothing he had experienced before!

He thought that the clone would no longer be a threat to him as long as he destroyed the body. Plus, with his current ability, he should be able to destroy his soul with ease using the Heaven and Earth

Restoration Energy. The only way anyone could survive was if they were on par with the Twelve Olympians!

But he never would've thought that the clone would revive instead of reincarnating!

"Has Yan Buwen given you this power?"

Yang Chen heart dropped from the fact that the mysterious power could potentially hurt him!

If that mysterious power was on par with the Endless Resolve Restoration Scripture, there was a chance that Yang Chen would lose!

The clone told him proudly, "That's right, our master gave us the ability to revive ourselves. We are immortal! Soon, even the likes of? Zeus and Athena would never stand a chance against him! I came to demonstrate our power! Our master said that you possess desirable abilities. If you submit to him now, he will promise to let you live!"

"Bullshit! Damn it... I will definitely destroy you!"

Yang Chen rage summoned a stronger amount of Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy!

His hands curled into a fist and his hand grasped the clone tightly!

The clone didn't even have the time to react!

"Ahhh!!!"

The clone was squeezed into bits after letting out an agonized yelp!

Yang Chen even squeezed a few more times for good measure. Soon the lawn of the estate was pooling with blood and bits of flesh!

Chapter 829 This Is the Laboratory

Yang Chen could tell in that instant that he was lying about his immortality.

Because after the first attack, he was significantly weaker than before.

That was why Yang Chen was able to catch him off guard.

This meant that after reviving a certain number of times, he would eventually die!

It was key to always believe that you were stronger than your enemy despite how strong they may seem. It was a lesson he learned having been through multiple battles in his life.

The mysterious power was summoned once again while Yang Chen was still lost in his thoughts.

This time, the clone revived several meters away from his original location.

Yang Chen was surprised by the fact that the clone was able to revive himself from a single drop of blood!

Yang Chen didn't give him a chance to resculpt his entire body and summoned another blast of the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy towards him.

Thump!

The new body was again blasted into shreds. The clone tried to weave himself a shield but it was useless against Yang Chen's might!

Finally, Yang Chen could feel a ray of divine power flying out from the pool of blood dissipating from this area!

He knew that it was the source of the clone's power. It was clearly a mark from one of the main gods though incomplete in nature.

Yang Chen summoned a blast of the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy to tear the soul apart like a typhoon.

The clone was now well and truly dead.

Yang Chen sneered and jumped back into An Xin's ruined room.

An Xin was horrified at the gruesome scene she saw before her. Her legs soon gave way and she collapsed into Yang Chen's arms.

Yang Chen hugged her and sighed. "Everything's fine now. No one is going to bother us anymore. Not after I take care of something in Beijing."

An Xin asked worriedly, "Hubby, will it be dangerous?"

"You don't trust me?"

An Xin shook her head, her eyes filled with worry.

Yang Chen smiled and stroked her hair. "This villa has already been ruined. Why don't you move into my neighborhood? Then I wouldn't need to run all the way over here to be with you."

An Xin's eyes gleamed with happiness but pouted soon after. "But what if Sister Ruoxi gets upset..."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. "Is Ruoxi that scary? Why do you get so timid every time her name is mentioned?"

"I'm not scared... It's just that... my body turns cold in response," An Xin muttered quietly.

Yang Chen couldn't help but laugh. He lightly slapped her perky backside through her gown. "You just need to warm up to her. She's actually a huge softie. Losing is a sore spot for her so as long as you humor her, it should be fine."

An Xin thought about it and nodded. "Then I'll check if there are any empty villas and move in immediately if I find one. I'll have someone repair this place and let someone maintain it."

Yang Chen was satisfied with her answer. He didn't mean for all of them to stay together but it would make things a lot more convenient if they did.

Yang Chen disappeared from the An clan estate after confirming that An Xin was safe. He commanded the Sea Eagles squad to continue protecting her safety.

It seemed like Yan Buwen wanted him to know that he was the enemy behind it.

But Yang Chen wasn't one to cower in fear. It would be a shame not to kill Yan Buwen since he was practically begging for it!

Yang Chen wasn't bothered about the excessive summoning of the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy. Desperate times called for desperate measures.

In a flash, Yang Chen teleported from Zhonghai to the mountain region in the northwest of Beijing.

The hillside was blocked off with barbed wire fence and the only pathway through was heavily guarded.

The coordinates given to him showed that there was supposed to be a laboratory several meters from where he stood. But it was nowhere to be seen.

At the same time, revving sounds from off-road vehicles could be heard downhill.

Yang Chen looked down and squinted. The person who got off the car was someone he was familiar with, Li Dun!

The single-eyed hunk wore a camouflage-patterned singlet. He winked at Yang Chen from below as he continued playing with a black and gold knife in his hands.

It was fairly obvious that the National Security Bureau had an eye on Yan Buwen and the Li clan had surveillance placed on Yang Chen.

Li Dun had the soldiers to wait for him downhill while he jumped up the hill and landed next to Yang Chen.

"Brother, you're indeed impressive. You arrived here in such a short time all the way from Zhonghai. If I were half as strong as you, Tang Xin would've already fallen for me," Li Dun said with a lazy tone.

Yang Chen smiled knowingly upon hearing his words. "You still haven't won her heart yet?"

"Sigh... I myself am not even sure what is in the way. She seems interested but she hasn't said yes," Li Dun said, troubled.

Yang Chen cocked his head to one side. "Did you rush all the way here to update me on your love life?"

"Hehe." Li Dun grinned shortly and turned serious. "Can we not go in?"

"You think I would stop looking if we couldn't?" Yang Chen squinted his eyes.

"But he's nowhere to be found. The trees here stretch for miles on end. Just retreat for now if you haven't found him." Li Dun pointed at their surroundings.

Yang Chen shrugged. "I'll just destroy the mountain then. I highly doubt his laboratory would survive if this mountain was mowed down."

"But that's a secret military base. A lot of money went into building that place. If you really did destroy it, it would be hard for my grandfather to appease the military," Li Dun said gloomily.

“That’s none of my business. If they have problems with it, then come talk to me. I’ll say this once because you are a friend. I have confirmed that Yan Buwen is the mastermind behind this. Nothing and no one will stop me from killing him, whatever it takes. I know your grandfather sent you here to stop me but you of all people should know that it is useless,” Yang Chen said cold-heartedly.

Li Dun scratched his head, knowing full well that he couldn’t stop him. “This job is too inhumane even for me. Alright, alright. My grandfather did say that Yan Buwen had to be killed anyway. I will bring you in but just keep in mind the damage you do, yea?”

Yang Chen thought about it. You guys can’t stop me anyway.

He puckered his lips towards Li Dun. “Lead the way.”

Li Dun leaped over the hill onto a taller hill with an inconspicuous door. “This is the entrance. I can’t open it because only Yan Buwen has the power to control this door. You must take care of the rest yourself.”

Yang Chen frowned. He did not expect Yan Buwen to possess a laboratory all by himself. Yang Chen slapped his hands onto the wall without any care.

BOOM!

With a loud crash, the stone walls collapsed under the force!

“This...”

Li Dun was in shock whereas Yang Chen’s face darkened from the view inside.

The inside of the mountain was just an empty cave!

The internal structure was dug clean!!

“This is the laboratory?” Yang Chen asked Li Dun in confusion.

Li Dun shook his hands hurriedly. “Yang Chen! I wouldn’t lie to you even if I work for the government! I, Li Dun, might be stingy but I’ll never lie to my brother! This really is the laboratory, I swear! Damn it! You have eyes around here too right?! The laboratory is here!”

Yang Chen believed him when he saw Li Dun’s flustered face. If the laboratory wasn’t here, there wouldn’t be an empty space carved into the mountain.

A shocking thought appeared in his head when he realized what had happened. The laboratory had been moved using the laws of space?!

“Damn it... I was fooled! He knew we would find his location so he sent his subordinates to distract me while he moved his entire lab! He made us come all the way here for nothing!”

Yang Chen gritted his teeth and punched the wall in anger, causing the entire structure to crumble to the ground!

Chapter 830 - Natural Selection

Natural Selection

Li Dun's jaw dropped in disbelief. "No way... Are the main gods from the west really this strong?! Can you do it too? Who do you think is helping him?"

Yang Chen shook his head. "This level of precision is far too difficult for one person to pull off. Transporting tight spaces requires far more effort than destroying it. At least that's what I think. I've fought with the god that he cloned. Assuming that his subordinates are of the same level as him, I estimate at least four gods are assisting him."

"Four... four gods?!" Li Dun was stupefied.

Yang Chen sighed. "And that's just a conservative estimate..."

Li Dun felt a bit short of breath. "So do you think they all look like you?"

Yang Chen glanced at him in displeasure. "And what makes you think I enjoy destroying myself again and again?"

"Destroy? What do you mean?"

"I don't want to talk about it." Yang Chen paused before asking again, "Where's the rest of the Yan clan? Or rather where is their clan leader Yan Qingtian?!"

Li Dun was surprised by his question. "Yang Chen, you're not planning on killing him in place of Yan Buwen, are you?!"

"If he doesn't reveal himself, I'll slaughter his entire clan!" Yang Chen said cruelly.

"You... are you nuts?! Yan Qingtian is the vice premier! He's part of the country's core and you're planning on killing him?! Are you even aware of the repercussions of your actions?!" Li Dun yelled.

Yang Chen sneered. "Just make something up, you guys have proven that you are capable of doing that time and time again."

"No, no! That's crazy! The Yan clan still wields considerable power despite not being part of the four dominant clans!" Li Dun shook his hands.

Yang Chen raised an eyebrow. "I wasn't asking for your permission. I was asking for the address. Whatever, I'll find it out on my own."

After saying that, Yang Chen went down the hill and left the mountains in a flash!

Li Dun cried out, "Damn you, Yang Chen! Don't come crawling back for my help, you hear me! I... I will... Where did you go?!"

Yang Chen wasn't able to hear his cries after having flown miles back to the city center.

He had called Hannya and asked her to give him the whereabouts of the members from the Yan clan.

The ninjas of the Yamata Sect were extremely skilled in tracking people, so they were able to provide him with accurate locations within the hour. A few moments later, they relayed the information they gathered to Yang Chen.

Yang Chen left for the Yan clan mansion after confirming that Yan Qingtian and the core members of the clan were there.

The Yan clan estate stood tall above a 2000 square meter lot in the old town area located in the southwest region of Beijing. The hundred-year-old mansion was gray in color and looked like it had been renovated several times since its birth. It stood as a true monument to the prowess of the Yan clan.

Guards surrounded the mansion in all the areas, protecting the main hall.

They were not prepared for Yang Chen's arrival, especially since Yang Chen had flashed in without sound nor notice.

"Who are you?!"

More than thirty guards fully armed and decked to the nines, rushed out and surrounded him.

Yang Chen wasn't bothered by them and continued moving to the great hall.

Two guards charged towards Yang Chen and tried to stop him. Yang Chen flicked his hand and sent them flying into the nearest wall.

His demon-like figure made their hearts drop as their fingers trembled.

The people inside the hall walked out upon hearing the commotion outside.

A group of youngsters and adults were led by an elderly as they stood across Yang Chen.

Yan Bowen's younger brother, Yan Buxue, stood among them, excited yet afraid to see him.

The elderly frowned and asked, "Are you Yang Chen?"

Yang Chen asked coldly in return, "Are you Yang Qingtian?"

"Hmph, was this how Yang Gongming educated you?" Yan Qingtian sneered. "I'm your senior. Yet you trespassed into my land and called my full name. How absurd!"

"I have no time for your petty complaints. I'm only going to ask you this once. Where is your worthless grandson Yan Buwen?" Yan Chen asked, his eyes overflowing with murderous intent.

Yan Qingtian was slightly frightened by his aura but he didn't show it. "And why should I tell you?"

Yang Chen said nothing and threw his hand forward!

Yan Buxue flew across and landed into Yang Chen's hand. Yang Chen grasped his neck and lifted him up the sky!

"Keep up your nonsense and one of your grandsons dies. In fact, I'll kill every last one of your members until you give him up. Their lives for your compliance," Yang Chen said coldheartedly.

Yan Buxue couldn't breathe, letting out a series of strangled gasp.

Yan Qingtian's face trembled in rage as his gaze swept over to Yan Buxue. "There's no use asking us. He has disappeared for days now. That's the whole reason we gathered in the first place!"

“Is that so... then it looks like I’ll have to do it another way,” Yang Chen muttered to himself.

He threw Yan Buxue on the ground and stomped on his legs!

“Ahh!”

With an agonized shriek, one of his legs broke under the force!

“You!”

“I’ll keep stepping on him if you don’t tell me...” Yang Chen told him lightly.

“Shoot! Shoot him!” A fat middle aged man yelled.

The surrounding guards lifted their guns to aim towards Yang Chen and fired the shots!

Yang Chen frowned. The bullets, as usual, had no effect on him and turned into dust mere inches away from him. He swiped his hand towards the fat guy and threw him into the air!

The man yelled in horror as he fell down from the sky!

His head landed directly into the ground, breaking into pieces!

“Uncle!” A few of the Yan clan members yelled, terrified.

Yan Qingtian’s face turned ghastly pale as he looked at Yang Chen’s nonchalant expression.

“You... you really are a demon! You can’t just go around killing people as and when you wish!”

“He wanted to kill me first. I’m just returning the favor,” Yang Chen said and stepped on Yan Buxue’s other leg!

Yan Buxue woke up from the pain!

“Ah! Grandpa! Tell him Grandpa! Tell him where Brother is! This guy is crazy!” Yan Buxue wailed.

Yan Qingtian laced his fingers together and curled them into a fist. He took a deep breath before saying, “Alright... I’ll tell you...”

Yang Chen smiled wickedly. “See, that wasn’t so hard, was it?”

“Buwen mentioned staying somewhere before. He said...”

Before Yan Qingtian could finish his sentence, a raspy voice rang out in the air. “Grandpa, you disappoint me. You were willing to give me up so easily.”

Everyone from the Yan clan looked at him in horror but Yang Chen stayed focus.

They saw a twist in the space above their heads and Yan Buwen descended from it, wearing a white robe with disheveled long hair.

Everyone stepped back unconsciously when Yan Buwen landed on the ground.

Yang Chen’s presence was a lot more than some of them can bear. When Yan Buwen arrived, they started to collapse under their feet!

“Brother... brother... save me... save me...” Yan Buxue extended his hands towards his brother, asking for help.

Yan Buwen glanced towards him. “I’m quite shocked that natural selection hasn’t claimed a weakling like you yet.”

“What...”

Yan Buwen sighed and charged towards Yang Chen!

Yan Buxue laid there, waiting for his brother.

But Yan Buwen didn’t attack. Instead, he stood in front of Yang Chen and paused for a split second. In a flash, Yan Buxue felt his head being stomped on and caved in!

Thump!

Yan Buxue’s head was squashed into bits like a watermelon!

Everyone screamed except for those who were already brain dead from the shock.

Yan Buxue would never have known that his short life, would be made shorter by his own brother’s foot!

This scene shocked everyone, including Yang Chen. Who would have imagined that Yan Buwen had become so twisted that he would kill his own brother!

“Ah! Buwen... what are you doing?!” Yan Qingtian shouted in anguish!

Yan Buwen looked back and spread his palms out. “I said, weaklings like him don’t deserve to live. I was just getting rid of a waste of space.”

“He’s... he’s your younger brother! Your brother!” Yan Qingtian stumbled and almost lost his foothold.

“Haha! Younger brother?!”

Yan Buwen threw his head back and laughed. His laughter was cut short by his speech. “The Yan clan will ever only need me! What’s the use of having relatives who are willing to give you up under a little pressure? You’re all useless. Every last one of you should die!”

“Yan Buwen! You need to speak with respect!!” One of the elders scolded him.

Yan Buwen sneered and his body flashed, appearing right next to a guard.

Yan Buwen broke his neck and took his automatic rifle. He lifted it with one hand and opened fire at the clan members!

BANG BANG BANG BANG!

All the members of the Yan clan fell one by one, each with a matching hole in their heads!

And all the while, Yan Buwen stood there laughing like a blood-thirsty demon.

The guards ran away with their tails tucked between their legs. The situation was beyond their control and there was nothing more they could do!

Blood dripped down his face from the bullet wound on his head as he watched his favorite grandson shoot everyone with the gun. His eyes were filled with horror at the situation he was witnessing.

Once all the core members had died, Yan Buwen threw the rifle away. He yawned and turned around, grinning at Yang Chen. "Alright, it's finally quiet now. I've been waiting for this day for a long time."

Chapter 831 - No Longer in the Mood

No Longer in the Mood

Yang Chen couldn't be bothered to stop him and watched on. Although Yan Buwen killing his own clan was an unthinkable monstrosity, it wasn't a point of concern for Yang Chen. In fact, Yang Chen was glad that he did not have to do it on his own.

But Yang Chen was puzzled. "I admit you're a lot crazier than I anticipated. But before we begin, may I ask you why you decided to make me your target?"

Yan Buwen raised his eyebrows. "Why does it matter?"

"Really, it's the only thing that's keeping you alive at this point," Yang Chen replied.

Yan Buwen burst out into laughter. "You? Do you really believe that you can beat me?"

Yang Chen kept quiet and waited for Yan Buwen's reply.

Yan Buwen stopped laughing and replied with a voice laced with venom, "I suppose I could tell you. In the beginning, you were a pain but nothing more. But as time went by, I realized that you were in possession of something that wasn't yours. And I always get what I want..."

"What thing?" Yang Chen frowned. "The God's Stone? No, I don't have it anymore."

"You don't need to know." Yan Buwen laughed nastily. "Just remember this, your death will be proof that I am the sole owner of the universe! I'm the strongest man in the world!"

"I never once said that I was that strong." Yang Chen pouted.

"But some people seem to think so!"

"Who?"

"You talk too much." Yan Buwen waved his hands in annoyance. "It doesn't really matter if you were dead, does it?"

A mysterious power surrounded Yan Buwen's body and collided with the space around them. It started to tear the space between them, causing all sorts of distortion!

It looked like the area around the Yan clan estate had become fragments which moved in a sequence!

Yang Chen could feel that it was the same sort of power the clone possessed but on a much larger scale!

"I'm sure you've come into contact with my creations in the past. So please, enjoy it while it lasts."

Yan Buwen laughed hysterically as he went up to Yang Chen like a lightning, aiming his fist right at Yang Chen's heart!

Yang Chen knew that in disorderly parallel spaces, the laws of space couldn't function like normal.

In other words, this mysterious power was enough to repress a god!

But Yang Chen wasn't planning on using his spatial powers in the first place. He raised his hand and caught Yan Buwen's oncoming fist!

The Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy wrapped around Yang Chen's body like a shield. At the same time, it faced the mysterious power head on!

BANG!

Series of shock waves pulsed through the ground, destroying everything in its wake!

The ground rumbled and the Yan clan estate collapsed under the immense pressure!

Yang Chen was shocked to know that Yan Buwen was much stronger than he had imagined. His power seemed to have no cap to it!

Yan Buwen continued to attack when the first assault didn't work. The mysterious power lashed out like a machine gun, slowly wearing Yang Chen's shield down.

Yang Chen was on par with Yan Buwen, but the power could slow down his body by cutting off his bloodstream which slowed down his movements!

Worse still, Yang Chen could feel that his Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy was overpowered by the mysterious power. He tried resisting but failed time and time again!

Yan Buwen found an opening to Yang Chen and he threw his fist filled with mysterious power outwards with a roar, landing right on Yang Chen's chest!

POW!

Yang Chen's body flew like a cannonball and soared through the air!

He pushed himself down on the ground and tried to slow down.

But before he could stand still, Yan Buwen charged forward with a flying kick. The result was Yang Chen's body failing to react and receiving the blow!

Yang Chen tried to block the blow with both hands but it was too much to bear!

"Ugh!"

With a groan, Yang Chen was kicked into a pit by the strong destructive power.

Yan Buwen turned his body over and hovered over midair, his face filled with excitement and disdain as he laughed hysterically. "HAHAHAHA! Is getting hit all you're good for?! Why? Feeling weak after a little kick?!"

Yang Chen was about to put down his hands when Yan Buwen flew down to step on him!

The destructive power made Yang Chen shudder...

POW POW!

Stones and debris flew out of the pit which seemed to have doubled in size!

Yang Chen suffered another attack because he couldn't control his movement. He knelt down on one knee to stabilize his body.

Yang Chen panted as his hands went to wipe the corner of his mouth. He tasted iron. Something which he hadn't tasted in a long time!

Before this, he didn't even bleed in his fight with Poseidon. But today, he had been hurt by the mysterious power!

Yan Buwen saw it too and sneered in disdain. "Pluto? What a joke... you're just an ant that even I can kill with a single squeeze. I thought you would at least hold up a little longer. You don't even deserve to be my opponent."

Yang Chen stood up shakily from the pit with his head lowered, remaining quiet as though he had heard nothing.

"Here's my advice for you. I'm reissuing my clones offer. Be my slave and I might let you live."

Yan Buwen descended from midair and gave a side-eye to Yang Chen. "Oh, before I forget, you have a lot of lovers, don't you? I just thought of a use for them. They can mate with my clones. That way, you can watch as your lovers and my clones make love to each other for the rest of your days. HAHAAHAHA!"

His hysterical laughter echoed around the ruins, as if he had told the world's funniest joke!

Yang Chen seemed to be standing in a black shadow.

A strong murderous intent was leaking out of him like black ink...

Yan Buwen frowned slightly when he noticed it but chose not to be bothered. "Looks like you still have a little fight left in you. Come on then, let's see what you've got."

Yang Chen's body trembled in excitement.

Yang Chen lifted his head up slowly, remaining expressionless as his black iris started to turn red.

Yan Buwen was under the assumption that this was going to be an easy win. But now, he wasn't so sure about it anymore.

Yang Chen licked the blood off at the corner of his lips.

"I chose not to get serious because I was afraid of the heavenly tribulations. But now, I'm no longer in the mood to play. Your death is worth any number of lightning strike I will receive."

Yan Buwen frowned at his words. "Are you trying to buy time? Because I could just end it right here, right now."

Before he could finish his sentence, Yan Buwen felt a strange surge of energy!

It was as though the world had completely changed. A strong oppressing sensation arose from his heart!

“This is...” Yan Buwen widened his eyes and looked at Yang Chen in disbelief!

Chapter 832 - One Hit

One Hit

Yang Chen’s abilities had multiplied to unimaginable heights. It was almost as if it was an entirely different person from the one before!

Dark clouds swirled in the sky as the wind howled within the space.

Yan Buwen tried but failed to open his eyes as the wind was too strong for him to see.

BOOM BOOM BOOM!

Lightning flashed across the sky, lighting it up with shades of blue and purple.

The thunders roared with all their might like a lion devouring its prey!

Yan Buwen subconsciously gulped as he felt waves of oppression roll-off Yang Chen’s skin!

Step.

All Yang Chen took was one step forward!

Yan Buwen started having trouble breathing. He felt an even stronger amount of Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy attacking every inch of his body!

Dark red flames flickered in Yang Chen’s eyes as his lips curled upwards, baring his fangs!

“Why so silent? What happened to killing me and taking my lovers away?” Yang Chen spoke in a raspy deep voice inching forward with every word. “Here’s your chance, take it...”

Yan Buwen had half a mind to step back but decided against it and resisted the oppressing force!

But no matter what he did, he couldn’t seem to shake it off. It didn’t matter how much power he exerted. It just wouldn’t go away!

Yang Chen’s body seemed to have fused with the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy. He wasn’t just utilizing it, he was it!

“You... hid your cultivation?!”

Yan Buwen screeched in horror. Being a man with a plan, he expected Yang Chen to have an ace up his sleeve. But no one could have predicted this!

Yang Chen snickered. “You should be proud. It’s not every day I find an opponent worthy of my abilities. You can die knowing that you were able to make me go all serious on you. I have to admit it has been some time since I was last serious.”

“Don’t get so cocky, our fight is still not over!”

Yan Buwen summoned all of his remaining energy and shot it toward Yang Chen hoping that it was enough to take him down!

Yang Chen sneered in disdain and stretched out his palm. At the same time, an invisible palm formed midair and slapped downwards!

BANG!

Yan Buwen's body was forced out of its position and onto the ground!

His body was squashed in a pit tens of meters below the estate. He laid there as blood and his liquified organs started to spill from his body!

Yang Chen frowned and said, "Seems to me that you can only withstand one hit."

Yan Buwen was still alive, albeit barely.

The mysterious power once again revealed itself when it rebuilt Yan Buwen's body in the blink of an eye.

"This power of yours, it's an interesting one I have to admit. But unlike mine, it can be drained. I suggest you give up now instead of dying numerous times." Yang Chen smiled smugly.

Yan Buwen, for the most part, looked fine albeit a little tired. His power was drained slightly from his almost death but he was much stronger than his clones.

Yan Buwen jumped away in a flash, his eyes displaying rage. "I won't give in..."

BOOM!

Another surge of the Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy ripped his body to shreds!

Yan Buwen wasn't even able to recollect himself when his body was shredded once more!

But once again, the mysterious power reconstructed Yan Buwen's body to its original state.

Yang Chen spoke softly, "I guess we're going to have to do this again and again..."

This time though, Yan Buwen decided not to fight back. It was more important for him to leave this fight alive than it was for him to win!

Yang Chen did not give him the time to do so, and sent another blast of Heaven and Earth Restoration Energy!

Once more, Yan Buwen's body was destroyed into an unrecognizable mound of flesh and blood!

In a flash, his body was rebuilt and he fell to his knees hunched over in front of Yang Chen.

Yang Chen looked at him numbly. He was really curious about how Yan Buwen had achieved near-perfect immortality!

Yang Chen looked up to the sky and was relieved to see that the lightning didn't seem to gather in anticipation of striking him.

But still, he couldn't risk unleashing his real cultivations for so long. Yang Chen raised his hand, planning to continue his attacks!

Yan Buwen's eyes flickered as he said, "You can't kill me... I have this!"

He grabbed something from midair. It was a black item wiggling in his hand!

Yang Chen was shocked. "The God's Stone?! This whole time, it was with you?!"

Having taken care of it for so many years, Yang Chen was able to recognize it when he saw it, though it was in a different form.

Yan Buwen cackled as the stone transformed into a huge black globe encompassing his entire body!

When Yang Chen saw that, he was now able to put two and two together. The mysterious power Yan Buwen wielded seemed an awful lot similar to the power the stone wielded!

Was that where Yan Buwen had obtained his powers from?!

But how did he get his hands on it?! Could he control the laws of space before this?

Yang Chen tried to destroy the black film covering Yan Buwen but nothing happened when his energy connected with it.

In the blink of an eye, the black film disappeared along with Yan Buwen. All that was left was Yan Buwen's laughter echoing in the sky.

Yang Chen stood still in disbelief. How was Yan Buwen still able to escape despite him revealing his true powers and killing him several times?

"Damn it!" Yang Chen threw a punch forward and demolished half the house!

He recovered and concealed his cultivation in less than a minute.

Yang Chen shook his head and sighed at the ruined mansion.

The key to Yan Buwen's escape was the God's Stone. It was no wonder that the other main gods were also in pursuit of that stone. It seemed that the stone was indeed capable of mysterious things.

Yan Buwen did in some way have the right to be cocky about his powers. He was the first one to unlock the secrets of the stone.

Yang Chen felt better knowing that he had injected Yan Buwen's body with his cultivation.

Whatever power Yan Buwen wielded, would clash with his cultivation.

For the time being, Yan Buwen wouldn't be able to destroy the traps that he had placed within his body. This window of opportunity gave Yang Chen enough time to train his women and plan for future attacks.

"Yang Chen! What did you do?! Did you destroy all these houses?!"

A loud screech was heard from afar.

Yang Chen glanced over. "How convenient. You arrived just as it ended."

“Damn you! I didn’t make it in time!” Li Dun looked around and frowned when he saw the dead members. “I received reports from the guards of the Yan clan that Yan Buwen had killed all of his family members and was engaged in combat with yourself. What happened? Where is he? Did you kill him?”

Yang Chen shook his head. “He got away.”

“No way! He got away from you?!” Li Dun looked at him in disbelief, muttering to himself. “Thank god I came after the fight. He was too strong for me to punch anyway.”

“Why? Why do you want to punch him?” Yang Chen lifted his eyebrows.

Li Dun muttered, “He has a thing with Xin’er... I have never liked him. Sigh, since you’re going to kill him, I’ll be the first to support you!”

“Aren’t you supposed to stop me?” Yang Chen smiled knowingly.

Li Dun’s face was filled with disdain. “We did not have sufficient evidence at the time. But now that we can confirm that he has gone batshit insane, it’s anything goes. I might be thick-headed but I’m not stupid. A moron like him doesn’t deserve to share the title of ‘Beijing King Duo’ with me.”

“You said ‘luckily I didn’t punch him’ just now.” Yang Chen smiled helplessly.

Li Dun looked at him with a blank face. “Did I say that? I must have misspoken... Hehe...”

Yang Chen felt much better looking at his silly smile.

Li Dun hit his chest in relief. “Honestly, my grandfather said Yan Buwen was too wicked for this world. He’s glad that you came out of it unscathed.”

Yang Chen’s heart warmed up from his words as his lips curled into a smile. “You cherish your life so much for someone who has no one to love. How could I, a man of many lovers, give up so easily?”

“I... you... Don’t you have anything nice to say?! I’ll get a girlfriend soon! Soon!” Li Dun yelled furiously at him.

Chapter 833 - Long Face

Long Face

The standing committee from the four major clans were shocked to know about the destruction of the Yan clan. It was unthinkable to believe that the culprit was Yan Buwen and not Yang Chen!

But, the government being the government, did not have much trouble concealing the issue.

The incident was written off as a gas explosion within the compound and that matters were being handled accordingly.

There were several people within the government who were displeased with the outcome but were forced to accept it under the pressure of Yang Gongming’s students and the Li clan.

Luckily Yan Buwen was mostly in charge of biochemical engineering and not the manufacturing of the more conventional weapons.

Yang Chen suffered criticism for his gruesome actions but no one actually acted on their words.

Due to this incident, the return of the eldest grandson of Yang clan became the hottest topic among the major clans, replacing Yan Buwen as part of the 'Beijing King Duo'.

But only the major clans and prominent figures of the country had any clue of Yang Chen's actual involvement. The second-class clans were blissfully unaware.

Yang Chen had lunch with Li Dun and his subordinates before flying back to Zhonghai.

The villa was already packed with people. Lin Ruoxi and Mo Qianni had just returned from work while Tang Wan and Rose were already seated in the living hall waiting for them.

An Xin was sitting on the sofa with brochures of properties in Xijiao Villas. She was probably discussing with them on which villa to choose.

They all smiled brightly when Yang Chen returned home safely except for Lin Ruoxi who was still frowning because of the ladies in the room.

Yang Chen winked at them and said to Lin Ruoxi who was standing across him quietly, "Say, Ruoxi, you shouldn't pull a long face even if you don't feel like smiling from seeing me."

"Hmph, you're the one with long face." Lin Ruoxi looked away, not wanting to see him but her expression had loosened.

Others exchanged looks and giggled. It was obvious that they saw her expression but they pretended to not know about it.

It was normal for her to feel this way ever since their meeting a couple days ago. But this time, they had all come uninvited.

Tang Wan smiled. "Told you he'd be fine. You guys have no confidence in him."

"But we had to confirm it for ourselves. You were only relieved once your clan members notified you about it. Why are you acting all tough now?" Mo Qianni teased her.

Tang Wan blushed after being exposed. She lunged forward and grabbed Mo Qianni causing her to giggle in response.

Rose pushed Mo Qianni backwards jokingly, bullying her together with Tang Wan.

Yang Chen was surprised to see them getting along so well. But he was sure that Lin Ruoxi had not taken the initiative to befriend them.

Guo Xuehua walked out of the kitchen holding a big plate of fruit slices. When she saw Yang Chen, she immediately started nagging, "You're finally back. What were you even up to? If An Xin didn't tell us about it, we wouldn't have known you went to Beijing. Your grandfather was the one who told me you're fine when I called home. We have to lay low for now. People are starting to talk."

"There's nothing we can do about them, let them be." Yang Chen took a slice of watermelon and stuffed it into his mouth.

Suddenly, an unexpected voice arose from the kitchen.

“Your life in China must be exciting huh, Yang Chen?”

Yang Chen turned around dumbfounded.

A slender woman wearing a pink spaghetti strap top stood behind him. Her perky rear was held up nicely by her skin tight jeans. Her outfit was fairly casual but no one could take their eyes off her.

“Jane?”

Yang Chen looked at her, puzzled. “Why are you here?”

Jane bit on her melon and spoke, “I’ll be staying in Zhonghai for a while.”

“What do you mean?” Yang Chen asked, getting more confused.

Lin Ruoxi spoke up with a clear voice, “Miss Jane will be supervising the development of synthetic materials between Yu Lei and several other companies from the UK. She will be opening a chemistry laboratory in Zhonghai University and also be acting as chancellor. Miss Jane will be developing new materials and teaching students in the university for at least a year.”

“What?! A year?!” Yang Chen was shocked.

Jane immediately looked at him sadly. “My dear Yang Chen, am I not welcomed here?”

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. “I was just surprised that’s all. But how were you chosen for some random project out of nowhere?”

Lin Ruoxi shot him a cold glare upon hearing this. “You mean the project that I approved of?”

Yang Chen realized his mistake and quickly made up for it. “Darling don’t get mad... it was a mistake. Projects like these are very beneficial to society...”

Lin Ruoxi snorted lightly, obviously dissatisfied with his excuse. “Miss Jane’s students were supposed to come but things changed and she came in their place.”

Jane smiled mischievously. “I know, Yang Chen must be surprised seeing that I called him earlier this morning from the UK.”

Yang Chen didn’t know how to respond to the ‘surprise’.

But there had to be some other reason why Jane replaced her students and came to Zhonghai herself. Yang Chen was curious to know why. He wasn’t notified of this.

Yang Chen shuddered when he remembered about their ambiguous relationship. *It was awkward for us when she was in the UK. Now that she’s here, how am I going to face her??* he thought.

Wang Ma prepared a lot of dishes because of the number of guests. They sat around the round dinner table and had their meal.

After dinner, the ladies returned home. An Xin had already chosen a villa next to Tang Wan which wasn't too far from Yang Chen's house. But unlike them, she wasn't able to move in immediately as she had a ton of things to pack.

Jane wasn't going to stay at Yang Chen's house. Zhonghai University had prepared a bungalow nearby for her to reside in for the time being.

Although it wasn't as good as other mansions, the location more than made up for it.

Lin Ruoxi helped Wang Ma and Guo Xuehua clean out the trash as Yang Chen watched TV with Zhenxiu.

Yang Chen felt more at ease knowing that Yan Buwen would be out of his hair for the time being. He could finally enjoy his life and his family.

Wang Ma stepped out of the kitchen and slapped her forehead when she took a look at the calendar. "Ah, I really am getting too old. I can't believe I forgot."

"What's wrong, Yulan? You're barely fifty this year." Guo Xuehua looked at her weirdly.

Wang Ma laughed. "It's the summer solstice today which means the Dragon Boat Festival starts tomorrow. We didn't celebrate it last time because it was only Miss and me. Now that we have so many people in the house, I feel like we should make it a proper celebration with dumplings."

Zhenxiu turned around on the sofa and said cheerfully, "Yay, yay, I want to make dumplings too, Wang Ma! I like to eat sweet rice dumplings!"

Guo Xuehua chided her, "You're such a foodie."

Wang Ma said, "We don't have the ingredients at home and I don't feel safe going out to buy them. I heard that they use colored dye to make their dumplings nowadays."

Lin Ruoxi contemplated for a while after hearing her words. "Wang Ma, why not let me ask my glutinous rice ball shop for some ingredients? I believe they will be making these dumplings as well."

Chapter 834 - Ecstasy Sensation

Ecstasy Sensation

Lin Ruoxi suggested this because she was craving for glutinous rice balls and felt bad for always having Ma Guifang bring it to her. If she had a valid reason to go, she did not need to feel embarrassed about it!

Guo Xuehua disagreed with her. "You should stay home and rest, Ruoxi. It's been a long day for you. Let Yang Chen go instead."

Yang Chen's face fell when he heard that. *But I'm busy too... I'm busy trying to figure out how to get my ladies together.*

Guo Xuehua frowned at Yang Chen's unwilling expression. "Why the long face? Are you not willing to help us?"

Yang Chen smiled hurriedly. "Of course not. I'll go tomorrow after work."

Lin Ruoxi puffed her cheeks and nodded. She did not have a choice.

A few moments later, Lin Ruoxi went upstairs to the study after washing the dishes. She had a lot to work to go through with the new project coming up in a few days.

Yang Chen passed the remote control to Zhenxiu and followed her.

He stood in front of the door, preventing her from entering the room.

“What is it this time?” Lin Ruoxi looked up at him weakly.

Yang Chen asked her awkwardly, “Are you still mad at me?”

“What...”

“I really did not remember that Tang Wan lived here. But I did ask An Xin to live here. You must have thought that I was trying to get them all in one place to veto you right?” Yang Chen let out a faint smile.

Lin Ruoxi kept quiet for a while. “If that’s what you think of me, then you’re wrong. Some things can’t be compromised because of pressure. Plus, you must be more worried about it than I am seeing as you were the one to bring it up.”

Yang Chen was dumbfounded as he tried to grin. “You saw right through me. Looks like having a smart wife has its benefits and drawbacks.”

Lin Ruoxi put on a smile as her eyes brightened. The proud look in her expression made her beam, looking more beautiful than ever.

“Don’t worry, I won’t say anything. You can’t undo the past. You saw me preparing tea and fruits for them. I can be generous too.”

Yang Chen said bitterly, “The fact that you’re becoming more generous now is the reason why I’m a bit nervous.”

Lin Ruoxi smiled lightly as she moved closer to Yang Chen. Her nose was almost touching his chin when she looked up.

“Why... do you feel sorry for me?” Lin Ruoxi whispered into his ears.

“Um... I’ve always felt sorry for you, now more than ever.” Yang Chen tittered.

“Then let it grow. I will have accomplished my goal when you start returning to my room cautiously after sleeping with other women. That, or when you stop flirting with pretty women.” Lin Ruoxi sounded pleased with herself.

Yang Chen’s heart dropped. “I knew it, I knew you wouldn’t be so nice!”

“Mom told me that people like you respond more to reasoning and persuasion over brute force. The nicer I am to you, the more guilty you will feel. Your mom knows you pretty well for someone that did not raise you.”

“Mom?”

Yang Chen sucked in his breath, pained by her words. “She helped you get back at me.”

Lin Ruoxi bit her lip and leaned onto his chest, rubbing her head against him as she spoke softly. "Hubby... I want to eat glutinous rice balls."

Yang Chen felt as if he was on cloud nine listening to her cute voice!

The sunken feeling in his chest dissipated immediately. "I know you only mentioned the restaurant because you wanted to eat it. I'll bring some back for you so stop torturing me."

"I want soybean and sesame flavoured ones along with some of the other flavors. Don't get any salty ones or ones that are too sweet."

Yang Chen gulped. "Okay, I'll get it. But can you stop talking in this tone?"

Lin Ruoxi kept quiet for a while and took a step back as she told him coldly, "Scram if you don't want to hear, don't block my way!"

"Phew..." Yang Chen let out a breath in relief. "This is so much better. It suits you more."

He ran away after saying that.

Lin Ruoxi gritted her teeth and stomped the ground as she watched him run away!

On the following day, Yang Chen stayed overtime to work on the pile of documents strewn before him. It was already an hour after everyone had left before he himself left for the restaurant.

Since peak hour had come and gone, there were only a couple people left in the streets.

Yang Chen was surprised to see a familiar face when he walked in.

Ma Guifang who was at the cashier looked at him in surprise. Her face brightened as she asked him, "Yang Chen, why are you here? Are you here with Qianni?"

Yang Chen just remembered that Lin Ruoxi sent Ma Guifang here to work. "No, I came here to get some ingredients for the rice dumpling."

Ma Guifang nodded in understanding. "We have some left in the back, though it might have been finished had you come tomorrow."

Uncle Zhao came out from the back and was surprised to see Yang Chen. He started talking to Yang Chen excitedly, inviting him over for dinner.

Yang Chen looked at the sky and saw that it was getting late so he told Ma Guifang, "Mom, join us for dinner. I'll send you home later so it's less of a hassle."

Ma Guifang knew Yang Chen was trying to get closer to her so she nodded since she decided not to care about her daughter's affairs.

Yang Chen didn't feel awkward eating at Uncle Zhao's house since it wasn't his first time. They were close to him and treated Ma Guifang like family too.

Just as dinner was to be served, he noticed that someone was missing from the table.

“Uncle Zhao, is Hongyan not home yet?” Yang Chen asked out of curiosity. Even if Zhao Hongyan was now Lin Ruoxi’s assistant, she should’ve already left the office.

Uncle Zhao sighed. “I saw her earlier. She’s probably holed up in her room doing some work. I need to take out the dishes so why don’t you call her for me?”

Yang Chen nodded. Zhao Hongyan used to be part of the public relations department whose workload was considerably less than that of the CEO’s assistant.

He walked towards the backyard after getting instructions from Uncle Zhao.

Although they weren’t rich, this luxurious house had been passed down for generations. Yang Chen had to cross through a long hallway and make a turn before he could reach Zhao Hongyan’s room.

The wooden doors were closed shut and the windows were covered with yellow curtains, blocking all the view.

Yang Chen was about to knock when he heard a sweet moan from the room.

“Hmm...”

It sounded like a delicate chirp of a bird and river flow in the mountains.

Yang Chen could immediately identify the noise, having heard it all his life!

It was actually hardly audible for normal people, but Yang Chen wasn’t normal.

He could sense that Zhao Hongyan was alone in her room. So the only conclusion he could draw was that she was pleasing herself!

Zhao Hongyan was a divorcee. Between her new job and her family restaurant, it did not leave a lot of time for her to date. She could be sexually pent up but had no way to release it.

For all those reasons, it wasn’t hard to understand why she locked herself in her room.

What Yang Chen did not know was what to do with this information...

Walk away? But how would he justify coming up to her door and not calling her out for dinner? She would definitely suspect that he heard her.

Knock and call her? Yang Chen didn’t want to do that.

He could feel a burning sensation rising in his abdomen when he remembered how he had caressed her before and how she was touching herself now! He really wanted to peek and see for himself.

Yang Chen felt like a bastard but he couldn’t help it. She wasn’t his woman but she had intimate moments with him before.

Right at that moment, Zhao Hongyan gasped and shouted, “Who’s outside?!”

Yang Chen was shocked. *How did she know?!*

Then he slowly scanned his surroundings and realized.

Damn it, he didn't realize that his back was facing the sun so when the sunlight shone against the curtain, she could see someone's silhouette from the inside!

Chapter 835 - Twice as Quick

Twice as Quick

Yang Chen hastily decided to act like he was completely clueless about the situation. He then said, "Hongyan, it's me. I stopped by to collect something and your dad invited me for dinner. I'm just here to tell you dinner's ready."

Inside were sounds of rustling and scuffling, before a belated reply came from Zhao Hongyan herself.

"Oh... erm... give me a minute... I'm working on something..."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly knowing full well that his blatant lie had more plot holes than he could count. But now that she had pointed out his presence, what else could he have done?

"Well, I'll be heading over first then." Yang Chen stood by extremely uncomfortable

"Alright..." Zhao Hongyan replied with a breathless voice.

Yang Chen quickly made his way back to the dinner table before Zhao Hongyan exited her room. He was not ready to deal with the awkwardness just yet.

Right as dinner was being served, Zhao Hongyan made her hasty entrance.

She put on a casual white round-necked one-piece paired with a striking red lace, once again magnifying the young maiden's natural glamour.

"Hongyan, what's gotten into you? We've got guests! Please don't do that ever again," Old Zhao grumpily vented.

Zhao Hongyan lightly nodded as she shied away from Yang Chen's gaze. A blush raced across her picture-perfect face.

Yang Chen took a quick glance and could hardly hold onto his emotions. *Oh my god. The woman was clearly on a high. Look at how red her cheeks are!*

Throughout the meal, Yang Chen lost his usual appetite but was instead sneaking glances at the woman opposite him. Zhao Hongyan was no better herself, stealing glances at Yang Chen every now and then.

And before long the inevitable happened as their eyes met, which led to both parties shying away.

Yang Chen was caught in the crossfire of emotions as he literally was right at the dining table with her parents. But there he was stealing glances like an illicit couple in front of his mother-in-law.

He could only blame the seductive moans of the woman earlier, which led him down a godforsaken wormhole of exhilarating thoughts.

If it were in the past when he was still a member of the public relations department, he would have undoubtedly succumbed to his earthly urges. Because at the time, he and Lin Ruoxi were nothing but a scripted couple.

Nonetheless, Yang Chen still had his conscience at bay, weighed down by the collective effort between Lin Ruoxi and himself in building a family. He knew that acting upon his urges right now would be biting off more than he could chew!

Not to mention the consequences he would face if Lin Ruoxi were to find out. Everything he had worked for would go down the drain.

After the meal, Old Zhao ordered his son to bring about some big gully bags filled with glutinous rice and bamboo leaves, alongside subsequent dumpling necessities such as pumpkin shreds, dried dates, and red beans. As for the rice balls that Lin Ruoxi craved for, Yang Chen attentively wrapped them in exquisite boxes in an attempt to leave a good impression.

After a proper send-off for both the guests, Zhao Hongyan forced a smile but had uncertainty hinted in her eyes.

On the return route towards Ma Guifang's house, Yang Chen couldn't help but crack jokes and sweet talk his way throughout the ride. It was an opportunity to re-establish his relationship with his mother-in-law. Opportunities like these are rare and hard to come by.

Once he returned home, he noticed that the women had just concluded their dinner and were watching the latest episode of their favorite Korean drama.

Now that Zhenxiu was on a break, she was now officially part of the tear-jerking Korean drama club.

Yang Chen, on the other hand, was completely clueless as to why they were so invested in a mopey drama. It was predictable and cliché but they were invested in it all the same.

After noticing that Yang Chen had returned home with their ingredients, they pulled themselves away from the TV.

"Hand the glutinous rice to me. It has to soak." Wang Ma hastily responded as she reached out for the bags.

Yang Chen was dumbfounded. "Now? Are you gonna wrap them tonight?"

Guo Xuehua pointed out. "Well, the night is still young. After wrapping and steaming it throughout the night, we can have it for breakfast tomorrow."

Yang Chen was indifferent about it. So he left the ingredients with Wang Ma and headed up for a hot shower.

"Wait." Lin Ruoxi dried the tears off the edge of her eyes before she made her way towards him.

"There's something I need to tell you. My team and I were invited to join Ms Jane's laboratory opening day tomorrow. It's being hosted at Zhonghai University and you were invited as well."

Yang Chen reacted with an awkward smile. "Do I have to? I'm working in the entertainment branch. What has it got to do with me?"

Yang Chen was emotionally conflicted with the constant confusing turns of fate. *I've tried my best to avoid both Zhao Hongyan and Jane in order to curb my desires. But why must fate throw me in such delicate situations?*

Lin Ruoxi was visibly agitated. "First off, you're closer to Ms Jane than any of us. Shouldn't you be there to support her? Second, if she sees you absent from the crowd, she might think I ordered you not to go. What would she think of me then?"

Yang Chen fumbled around for a while before he replied with a smirk. "Ruoxi my wifey, I see that your brain works twice as quick when it comes to work!"

"Hmph, it's not like you have a choice in this anyway!" Lin Ruoxi commanded.

Yang Chen dispiritedly sighed as he nodded. *?I guess the only thing I could do is try and avoid talking to them...*

After the notification, Lin Ruoxi abruptly pouted, her tone significantly lowered as she mouthed, "Where are my glutinous rice balls?"

"Oh." Yang Chen pointed at the kitchen. "It's in the grocery sack that Wang Ma took a while ago."

Lin Ruoxi ultimately cracked a rare smile as she said, "You can go now."

Yang Chen was hoping for a little 'reward', but was greeted with nothing, leaving him rather disappointed.

After he made his way back to his room, he stripped himself clean of his clothing and was about to enter the bath when his phone rang.

Yang Chen picked up the phone only to see that it was a call from the UK, a number he was unfamiliar with. With caution in mind, he picked it up.

"Who is this?" Yang Chen replied in English.

"Little Chenchen! It's me!" An elated feminine voice resonated from the other end of the line.

Yang Chen had literal goosebumps as he replied, "Catherine?!"

The only one who would create such an absurd nickname for him was none other than Jane's mother, the Welsh queen.

Catherine jovially added, "I've missed you so much. Couldn't you have called me after you left for China? You always leave me sad and desperate once you're done playing with me..."

Yang Chen's guts churned from these words, sappy yet sweet. "Please, you'd never call unless you need me for something. So come on out with it then."

Catherine hesitated for a bit. "Wow, I never thought you'd know me so well."

"As long as you stay sane," Yang Chen added.

Catherine's tone of speech took a quick turn. "Yang Chen, Jane left for Zhonghai. I need you to bring her back. Can you do it?"

"What do you mean? Are you telling me she ran away unnoticed? What did she do?" Yang Chen was confused.

I knew there was something off with Jane's abrupt visit to Zhonghai!?he thought.

Catherine wallowed as her dull tone was the exact opposite from just moments ago.

"My child, in response to an arranged marriage with the Rothschild's, took the excuse of her research project to run to you. I'm at my wit's end right now and I don't know what to do. The Rothschild clan are infuriated at her actions. But now that we know you are in Zhonghai, we have been formulating a plan. Which is why I need you to give me a solid answer. If I were to send my men to escort Jane back to Wales, would you agree?"

Yang Chen was glued to his spot for a long time before he grunted, "She saved my life once. I am alive today because she has willed it so. If she doesn't agree with it, no one can force her to."

Through the phone, Catherine's disheartenment could be felt, before her eventual sigh. "Edward and I knew you wouldn't just stand by idly as the events unfolded. That's why have yet to make a move. But the child is far more brilliant than her own mother, and if she got to you, there would be nothing we could do."

"I'm just stating the facts. I don't know who you've set her up with but I suggest you respect her personal decision." Yang Chen did not feel like playing nice today.

Chapter 836 In Your Heart

Jane was no longer a little girl by royal standards. It was normal for a girl her age to have children. Her popularity among the nobles did not help her cause. Yang Chen was at a loss because this was the first time he was notified of this.

"But... Yang Chen, hear me out. Jane is a girl from the royal family. She is expected to carry on our bloodline. Her marriage is inevitable." Catherine tried to persuade him. "I've been meaning to call for a while now. Please persuade her to reconsider. She has to stop living in her fantasy and start facing reality."

Yang Chen was anguished. "Alright, I'll talk to her tomorrow. But let me warn you, no one can force her to do what she does not want."

Catherine sighed and ended the call.

That night, Yang Chen could not sleep. He tossed and turned reminiscing about his past with Jane. From the moment he met her, she was already special in his eyes. He thought about the times he spent with her in the UK. Before he knew it, Jane wormed her way into his heart.

The next afternoon, Yang Chen departed for the biochemical engineering department in Zhonghai University with Lin Ruoxi after handling some documents in the office.

Ever since they announced their marriage, most people from Yu Lei International were used to seeing the both of them together.

Zhonghai University was one of the top universities in China. They hired many top international scholars to teach their students.

The campus was situated around a small hill with a lot of green spaces. It was equipped with more than adequate infrastructure, including road for cars to drive inside the campus.

Due to Jane's identity, the university and the government had placed high importance on this project. The municipal committee leaders and notable people from the university were required to attend the event. The field was bustling with people which looked like a social gathering from afar.

In the field, socialites and politicians mingled around catching up with one another. This event wasn't just for Jane and the introduction to her project. This was also a time for people to create business opportunities.

Paparazzi surrounded the fence and were being held back by the security guards. Their cameras flashed continuously to take as many photos as possible.

The public was only aware of Jane's identity as a scholar. They were not aware of her other identity as the princess of Wales. Her true identity was only privy to the elites in society.

Lin Ruoxi attracted a lot of attention. She was, after all, the main investor of this project.

For most people, Lin Ruoxi was more important to connect to compared to Jane.

Since Yu Lei International was the one profiting from this project, it was more important to be a part of that.

Lin Ruoxi looked especially refreshing in her beige dress but no one dared to approach her because of her chilly expression.

People only came up to greet her out of respect. Many were afraid to continue the conversation due to Lin Ruoxi's uninterested tone.

On the other hand, no one paid attention to Yang Chen despite being Lin Ruoxi's husband. People started speculating about how he solely depended on Lin Ruoxi to survive. Yang Chen wasn't interested in socializing with the crowd so he stood away from the crowd.

If it was in the past, Lin Ruoxi would have dragged him around to greet people. But now that she knew part of his background, she didn't bother to do so and left him alone.

Jane made her appearance around lunchtime.

She was wearing a figure-hugging off-shoulder dress which matched her blue eyes. Her amber-colored hair was let down, framing her flawless facial features. They couldn't imagine that a delicate woman like her would be a scientist because they assumed she would be unkempt!

Everyone started to quiet down when the emcee invited Jane up the stage to deliver her speech.

Some even started to compare Jane and Lin Ruoxi but they couldn't decide who looked better due to them being different ethnicities.

Jane spoke with an especially serious voice, contrasting with her usual lazy tone. Her English was flawless and fluent. Nothing short of the world's best.

At the end of her speech, Jane sprinkled in some Mandarin to add to her charm. "That's all I have to say regarding the project. Lastly I would like to thank each of everyone of you. I know many of you might not have understood what I said. It's completely normal since my students didn't understand it either. But thank you all for not falling asleep during my speech."

The guests cheered as they gave her a round of applause.

Yang Chen raised his glass from afar and he sighed when he realized that the helpless but intelligent girl he had met in the church of Riviera back then was now all grown up.

The party continued on and almost everyone was immersed in serious talks. Even Lin Ruoxi was having a discussion with the officials about the future of the project. Yang Chen knew no one since he wasn't involved in the project. Therefore he was left alone and by himself.

He walked over to the woods behind the laboratory. It was peaceful and quiet there.

Yang Chen layed down on the grass and stared at the trees.

Although Catherine hadn't said much regarding the situation, he still felt his heart squeeze at the thought of it.

He had never dreamt of making Jane one of his women. But now that she was about to be wed off to someone else, he couldn't help but feel a little possessive of her.

The complex feeling overtook his mind and Yang Chen couldn't think of anything else.

Light footsteps were heard approaching a few minutes later.

Yang Chen knew who it was without looking.

He saw a pair of slender legs stop right next to him. Looking up, he saw a pair of lacy underwear under a blue dress. There was another side to her underneath her graceful appearance.

"Aren't you afraid of the paparazzi?" Yang Chen didn't dare to continue looking, smiling as he turned around.

Jane stuck close to him, not caring that the grass might dirty her dress.

"I came through the back road so they wouldn't know. But, if they happened to catch us together, I wouldn't mind a scandal. I would actually like that."

Yang Chen sighed. "You shouldn't have come. You're making things difficult for your mother."

Jane eyes darkened as she asked, "Would you consider my feelings or my mother's first?"

"She's your mother. There's nothing else to consider," Yang Chen said.

"No," Jane denied. "I'm asking you as a woman. Do you care about me, or my mother more?"

Yang Chen was caught off guard and contemplated her question. "I don't know. I couldn't sleep after that call with Catherine."

Jane smiled softly. "I like your answer. At least I made you restless."

Yang Chen smiled bitterly. “The both of you have watched me grow over the years. Both of you hold a special place in my heart.”

“Are we really the ones ‘in your heart’?” Jane asked cheekily.

Yang Chen frowned as he got up into a sitting position and shook his head. “I’m not going down that road. You’re much smarter than me. But the problem is that no matter how smart you are, you are still the Princess of Wales who needs to be wed.”

Jane scooted closer to Yang Chen and leaned backwards on him.

“You know why I’m here.”

Yang Chen took a deep breath. “Jane, every time I see you, I am reminded of the beauty of a raw crystal—untouched, uncarved. It’s an art piece formed by the heavens. But I also know that if I leave it alone, it’ll stay a crystal forever. The crystal is perfect in my heart but it’ll never be an artwork. It would be a selfish choice to make.”

“Then just leave it uncarved forever,” Jane mumbled. “Let the crystal stay next to you quietly. You can protect it and it’ll be happy.”

Yang Chen couldn’t reply, his hands curled into fists.

Jane glanced at him and smiled gently, “I like you, Yang Chen. I really do. I’m very sure of it...”

Chapter 837 A World Apart

Yang Chen felt his breath being whisked away at her straightforwardness.

Jane continued to smile. “Don’t worry too much about it. The moment I fell in love, was the moment everything changed for me. I realized that in this deep, dark world, there will always be a ray of sunshine waiting for me on the other side...”

“I’m not worth it.” Yang Chen shook his head.

“That’s my call to make,” Jane said stubbornly.

Yang Chen gently ran his hands through the grass they were seated on. “Jane, I won’t hide anything from you and you can share all your thoughts with me. We’re here, right now lying back-to-back.”

Jane felt at a loss. “But it doesn’t feel like it. It still feels like we’re half a world apart.”

This time, Yang Chen didn’t know how to reply so he kept silent.

“Yang Chen,” Jane began. “Please don’t chase me away even if you don’t want me here next to you. I have nowhere else to go. Promise me?”

Yang Chen thought about it for a long while.

Once he had gathered his thoughts, he got up and walked back towards the party.

He suddenly stopped in his tracks with his back facing her. “I promise.”

Yang Chen continued to walk back to the party.

Jane broke out into a smile as she watched his figure retreat into the distance.

A delicate figure wearing a low-cut red dress appeared in front of Yang Chen when he made a turn near the party location.

Zhao Hongyan stood at the corner absentmindedly, holding a glass of champagne. Her hair was tied up which gave prominence to her busty chest in the low-cut dress. She looked fairly different from when they first met.

She looked like a lonely flower standing alone at the corner.

Yang Chen didn't realise until he looked up and saw that it was Zhao Hongyan. He froze in his steps.

Zhao Hongyan was flustered to see him too and she hurriedly lower her head down.

"Fancy meeting you here." Yang Chan tried to act nonchalant and greeted her.

Zhao Hongyan bit her lip and nodded in response.

"Let's go back. They might dock your pay for slacking off." Yang Chen joked and started walking back.

To be honest, the moment he saw her, his mind was filled by the seductive moans he heard from yesterday night. How was he going to contain himself should he stay there with her?

Zhao Hongyan mustered up her courage and called out after him. "Wait!"

"Hmm?" Yang Chen stopped in his tracks.

Zhao Hongyan turned around, her eyes brimming with tears. "Yang Chen do you think of me as a dirty, shameless woman? One who only knows how to be vile?"

Yang Chen was stupefied. "What made you say that? I wouldn't have greeted you if it were true."

"You're just sweet talking, aren't you?" Zhao Hongyan let out a ghost of a smile. "You don't have to do this. It'll only make me feel that much worse..."

Yang Chen sighed and smiled bitterly. "Since you keep insisting on that, pray tell, what part of you would I find so repulsive?"

Zhao Hongyan couldn't answer that and she turned around in embarrassment.

"You... definitely heard me yesterday. Must you make me repeat it?"

"And so I must assume that you are a despicable person just because you were masturbating?" Yang Chen asked in disdain. "You think too highly of me, and you're being self-centered."

Zhao Hongyan was surprised to hear his response.

Yang Chen continued, "There are billions of people in the world who all possess the same sexual desires you do. If everyone thinks that masturbation equals to depression, they can disappear for all I care. You think divorcees are rare? You think they don't have their own sexual needs? If it wasn't for their second husbands or boyfriends, where else do you think they vent out their desires?"

“Don’t be ridiculous. I’m just a man and you’re just a woman. I just happened to catch you at the wrong time. I’m not some virgin who’s never done it with a woman before. You’re not some middle school kid who reads obscene novel all day, so why do you have to think so lowly of yourself because of something like this?”

Zhao Hongyan stuttered, “Then... why did you pretend as if nothing had happened?”

Yang Chen pursed his lips and sighed. “I had no choice... You’re pretty and you have a nice body. If I don’t control my actions, I might taint your reputation and get you fired. You’re the first female colleague that I met in Yu Lei. I can’t treat you like a plaything.”

Zhao Hongyan couldn’t hold her happiness although she couldn’t believe his praise. Her cheeks flushed as she stood restlessly, not knowing what to say.

“You understand right? You’re a woman who has a woman’s needs. Don’t dwell too much on it.” Yang Chen chuckled.

Zhao Hongyan nodded. “Thank you. I’m sorry for doubting you.”

Yang Chen waved his hands to cut her off as she sounded awfully close to confessing. “It’s alright, don’t think so much about it. I’m gonna go grab some food.”

He left in a hurry after that.

Zhao Hongyan’s lips curled into a shy smile as she watched him leave.

Yang Chen took a plate and quickly went to the buffet line. He would be busy with the press conference and welcome party later.

Lin Ruoxi and Mo Qianni couldn’t spend time with Yang Chen since they were both busy talking to business partners. So Yang Chen explored around the campus and even had time to take a nap.

The party was just getting started as the evening rolled around.

Lin Ruoxi came to Yang Chen and linked her arms with him. She looked at him up and down as she said skeptically, “Where did you go this afternoon? Were you having an affair?”

Yang Chen smiled awkwardly. “I had nothing to do and I didn’t understand the things you guys were saying, so I took a nap. Don’t worry, I wasn’t with anyone.”

Lin Ruoxi nodded with a satisfied smile. “There are a lot of pretty girls on campus. But I doubt they would go for you since you’re pretty average in both style and looks. I’m just asking for fun, I trust you.”

“Of course, why would I look at them when I have a beautiful wife like you?” Yang Chen tried to please her.

But her face turned chilly. “What did you do with Miss Jane behind the laboratory?”

Yang Chen was surprised as he smiled bitterly. “You saw us?”

“How could I miss my two biggest targets?” Her eyes were filled with murderous intent when she said, “I brought you here because I believed in you. If you flirt with Miss Jane behind my back, I’ll cancel the project and send her back! And you, will suffer!”

Yang Chen sweated nervously. “Ruoxi, it wasn’t like that. All we had time for was a quick chat.”

“Hmph, it better be. I don’t have the right to control your actions but I am working hard towards our relationship. You were the one who said we could only sleep together after we got married. If you dare to find any more girls, I’ll show you just how cruel a woman can be, do you understand?”

Chapter 838 - Giant Whale

Giant Whale

Yang Chen gulped and nodded when faced with her piercing glare.

When they were about to make their way back to the hall, Yang Chen’s mobile phone rang.

He fished it out of his pocket and saw the caller ID. It was Liu Mingyu.

She couldn’t attend today, staying back in the company to settle some stuff. But she should have gotten off work by now.

Yang Chen answered the call in front of Lin Ruoxi. “Mingyu, what’s wrong?”

She sounded out of breath as she spoke in a panicked manner. “Yang Chen, my brother Minghao is missing!”

“What?!” Yang Chen half said half screamed.

Lin Ruoxi frowned at the side, she was uncomfortable with the fact that Liu Mingyu called Yang Chen with the worst timing imaginable.

Liu Mingyu said, “Minghao got into a fight with our dad this afternoon and threatened to run away from home. We thought he wasn’t serious but we haven’t been able to get in touch with him. We’ve no idea where he went. I’ve searched all the places we assumed he would go. We’ve even asked his friends and they have no clue where he went. What if... what if he got kidnapped by one of Dad’s enemies?”

“Don’t panic. Why did he fight with your dad?”

Liu Mingyu replied, “I’m not sure... but I think... I think it’s related to his mom’s death.”

Yang Chen was slightly frustrated, knowing that Liu Minghao must have heard about how Xu Ying and Gao Yue were killed by Liu Qingshan, which was why they got into a fight.

“Zhonghai might be the Red Thorns Society’s territory but your dad has connections too. Wouldn’t he be able to find him?” Yang Chen asked.

Liu Mingyu replied, “Dad is in the hospital because he got too upset from the fight. He didn’t send anyone to look for him and he’s denying that Minghao is his son. My mom requested help from the Red Thorns Society but it has been two hours and they still don’t have a clue.”

Although Liu Minghao was her half brother, she was close with him. It was a shock for her that he would run away from home.

Yang Chen started becoming irritated. "Why didn't you inform me earlier?!"

Liu Mingyu stuttered, "I... I didn't want to trouble you since you were attending a big event with Ruoxi. I figured I wouldn't have to disturb you if I could resolve it on my own."

"When did you become so dumb?! How is attending an event more important than your missing brother?" Yang Chen raised his voice.

Lin Ruoxi who was standing beside him showed signs of displeasure.

Liu Mingyu started sobbing again. "I... I'm sorry. Can you help me find him? Plus, his temper might have gotten him into trouble."

Yang Chen couldn't stand her crying. He took a deep breath and comforted her. "Alright alright, I'll help look for him now. I can find him so long as he is on this planet. Go back to your parents and I'll bring him back when I find him."

"Okay, I'll listen to you..." Liu Mingyu could barely think straight.

Yang Chen turned to Lin Ruoxi after ending the call. "Ruoxi, Mingyu's brother ran away from home and I have to help looking for him. You'll have to go inside yourself."

"What?!" Lin Ruoxi couldn't hear their conversation clearly. "Are you kidding me?! They're all waiting for us, how can you leave me behind when they already know that you're my husband!? What would they think of me?"

"There's nothing I can do in this situation. We'll talk about it at home." Yang Chen knew that he was letting her down but he didn't have time to explain.

If he spent another second here, the more dangerous it would be for Liu Minghao.

There could only be one reason why the Red Thorns Society failed to locate the son of the leader of the Green Dragon Society. He must have been brought to a location beyond their reach!

Yang Chen didn't have time to care about Lin Ruoxi's feelings. He quickly ran to the parking lot.

Lin Ruoxi was left alone outside the hall, gaining stares from everyone. She could only vent her anger by cursing at Yang Chen in her heart!

Yang Chen contacted Molin from the Sea Eagles when he got in the car. Although Liu Minghao couldn't be reached through his phone, it was still probably connected to the internet. All they needed to do was to hack into the internet service providers' database to pinpoint his location.

In less than five minutes, Molin sent him a few text messages. From the looks of it, he texted a guy called Gao Yu before he went missing. The texts were about him planning to leave the Green Dragon Society and asking Gao Yu to pick him up and send him to the Su Province.

Yang Chen asked, "Who's Gao Yu?"

Molin answered him, "He runs the biggest smuggling organisation in the Su Province. His father, Gao Feng, is the most famous underworld smuggler in China mainly dealing with drugs and stolen jewelry. The Su Province is now under the control of the Giant Whale Society due to the downfall of the White Wolf Society. Apparently he's planning to extend his power to the shores, which is why he has been taking over the White Wolf Society's territories and recruiting men. He's also in contact with some societies overseas."

Yang Chen could've roughly guessed what had happened. "Then have you gotten ahold of Liu Minghao's exact location?"

Molin replied, "I'm so sorry, Your Majesty Pluto. We couldn't find his exact location in so little time, but we did locate the headquarters of the Giant Whale Society. From the text messages, we can assume that he is not in any immediate danger. It appears that he's friends with Gao Yu and is seeking refuge with him."

"Seeking refuge... Him?" Yang Chen sneered. "Seems like his brain isn't working. I'll take a look at it myself."

The distance between Zhonghai and the Su Province wasn't significant, roughly a two-hour drive. He looked at the address and drove to the location after checking on the GPS.

Yang Chen called Liu Mingyu to update her about his findings. He also told her that she should sleep when she's tired because he might get back quite late.

Liu Mingyu was relieved to hear that he had already located her brother's whereabouts.

Yang Chen arrived at the Giant Whale Society's headquarters two hours later, which was the biggest nightclub on the streets. It was located south of the city near a bustling night market.

There was an eye catching huge blue whale neon sign on the door, guarded by a team of emotionless hunks. They were in charge of crowd control and catering to the needs of the guests.

Yang Chen walked towards the door after he parked his car.

Just when he was about to get in, two hunks stopped him and said politely, "Sir, you need to be a member to enter. Please register if you're not one yet."

Yang Chen looked at the signboard beside with the price written on it. The monthly membership cost five thousand yuan while the annual membership cost fifty thousand yuan. It was basically to filter the wealthy from the commoners.

"What if I don't have money with me?" Yang Chen spread his hands.

"Then please come again when you have the money." The hunk was still polite.

Yang Chen smiled. "I'm not here to play. I'm looking for Gao Yu, is he here?"

The hunks looked at each other and one of them asked, "May I know who you are, and what business you have with our boss?"

Yang Chen said, "I'm looking for someone. I need his input on a person I'm currently tracking."

"I'm sorry, there are a lot of people who ask for an audience with him but he does not have time for all of them." The hunk's face hardened as he gestured to him. "Please leave."

Yang Chen scratched his head. "I think you guys are sorely mistaken."

"Huh?"

"I'm not asking for your permission. I was asking if he was here. If he's not here, do call him over," Yang Chen said seriously.

The other guards burst out laughing when they heard him. The two hunks started to crack their knuckles.

"It looks like you're here to cause trouble. We haven't had anyone provoke us in a while. You'd do just fine as a punching bag!"

"I thought it would be easy to talk to you guys but I guess it always comes down to a fight." Yang Chen sighed.

The hunk spat. "What a stubborn man. I've met people like you who are all talk and no action!"

A fist went straight to Yang Chen's left cheek!

Yang Chen extended his hand and caught his fist without looking!

"Crack!"

The deafening sounds of bone crack could be heard clearly even on a bustling street!

"Ahh!"

The hunk yelled in pain as Yang Chen slapped him down on the ground before he could retract his hand!

Yang Chen grinned and clapped his hand, as the others were startled with the change of events. "Or, I could just tear down this entire building. He has to come out after that, wouldn't he?"

Chapter 839 - Russian Woman

Russian Woman

Everyone thought Yang Chen was crazy for acting so cocky!

Most of the passersby didn't want to get caught up in a street fight so they decided to vacate the premises.

"He's trained! Let's go together!"

They signaled each other and charge forward all at once.

In a matter of seconds, the air was filled with the sounds of punching and kicking. Although the guards were very skilled, they were naturally no match for Yang Chen.

Yang Chen wasn't actually going to tear down the nightclub since it was located in a bustling street. Not everything had to end in bloodshed. He would be a real demon if it did.

All he needed to do was slowly whittle away at the society's members and it would be enough. The people in the underworld placed the utmost importance on their reputation. Challenging it would basically mean challenging death.

Yang Chen took one of them down with every swing of his arm.

Catch, turn, lift, throw. It was that easy!

The moment the guards got near, they could feel themselves being lifted off the ground. By the time they managed to recollect their thoughts, they were already halfway towards a wall!

BANG BANG BANG!

A series of collisions startled everyone who was watching and the ladies screamed in horror.

Yang Chen walked into the nightclub leisurely after taking care of the guards.

The interior was designed with luxury in mind and appeared to be more spacious than it seemed from the outside. The people inside were unaware of the fight that just happened, dancing without a care. They were twisting their bodies to the music and some were obviously high on drugs.

Yang Chen looked further and saw more people, proving how good business was in this place.

Locating a flight of stairs, Yang Chen saw a painting of Europe present by its entrance. Similar to the entrance, the staircase was guarded by bulky guards.

Yang Chen looked around. The main headquarters of the Giant Whale Society should be located somewhere deeper within the nightclub. By his estimations, it should be somewhere further up those stairs.

So with that in mind, Yang Chen ran up the stairs.

At the same time, the guards upstairs received a notice about the trespasser. They immediately found Yang Chen after.

"It's him! Get him!"

A group of guards charged forwards with a menacing aura, wanting to tear him up!

Yang Chen did not care about how fast or how many came. As soon as one got close to him, he would shove them up the stairs.

Eventually, he walked through the corridor and into an art corridor.

It was an art corridor because there were art statues, paintings, and poem wall arts flanking both sides of the corridor.

Yang Chen wasn't a professional by any means, but he knew that this was put on display for people to see.

But weirdly enough, for someone who supposedly enjoyed art, he placed them in a noisy nightclub technically in an underworld society's headquarters.

Just then, a group of ladies walked out in two rows.

They were wearing tight-fitted leather clothes hugging their chest and butt. Most of them were of mixed blood, some were tanned and some were Caucasian with black hair.

The only thing they shared in common was that they were all very well trained. Yang Chen could tell through their developed physiques that an ordinary person would be no match for them.

Yang Chen continued to walk forward, seeing that the girls weren't planning to attack him.

When he was about to turn into a corner, one lady with red hair called out to him, "Please turn right, our master is waiting for you."

Yang Chen could hear a tinge of a Russian accent and was surprised. The Giant Whale Society was more mysterious than he had originally thought.

He arrived at the room after walking through a long hallway.

Yang Chen pushed open the dense red wooden door and walked into the room. He immediately felt his feet sink into a cashmere Persian carpet.

A man in blue clothing was seated on the sofa, holding a fan in one hand while drinking Tieguanyin tea.

Next to him was a Caucasian woman with blonde hair, dressed in a pink bikini. She sat on top of the sofa with her legs stretched forward.

Her delicate foot was hovering around the man's mouth.

He would lick her foot after sipping his tea, as though it was something delicious. Sometimes he would even bite on it lightly to tease her.

Yang Chen sat down on the sofa across them as he watched on with a weird smile.

After a while, the man finally turned around with a gentle smile on his face. "A woman's feet can be as fascinating as any other painting, can't it?"

Yang Chen shrugged. "I think she would like it more if you lick her crotch."

The man chuckled. "I only have a foot fetish. It doesn't mean I lust for women. You must have misunderstood me."

"If licking a woman's part equals to appreciation, I'd rather direct my focus at something else," Yang Chen replied with a bored tone.

The man frowned and waved his hands. "Lame, lame. But it's fine, I would never argue with a layman."

Yang Chen realized that this guy was crazier than himself.

"I am Gao Yu, the young master of the Giant Whale Society. You must be the son-in-law of Liu Qingshan from the Green Dragon Society, Mr Yang Chen, right?" Gao Yu asked while waving his fan.

Yang Chen didn't bother to answer and asked him, "Where's Liu Minghao?"

Gao Yu replied, "Liu Minghao's mother was friends with my father. Since I was acquainted with him, he had decided to stay here for a couple of days after running away from home. If you're here to pick him up, I'll be glad to call him over. Everything that happened outside was a misunderstanding."

Yang Chen was weirded out by his words. *He's letting Liu Minghao go just like that? Am I really overthinking things?*

Just then, there were noises outside the door.

A familiar-looking young man stood at the door, and sure enough, it was Liu Minghao!

"Brother-in-law?!" Liu Minghao was wearing a white singlet with boxers. He was excited to see Yang Chen. "Why are you here?!"

Yang Chen beckoned for him to come over.

The moment he caught him, Yang Chen could smell something from him and he frowned. "Spill, what were you doing just now?"

Liu Minghao blushed and mumbled lightly at the question, "Hehe... I... I was doing it with a Russian woman. Brother-in-law, you have no idea how different it is to do it with them! Much greater than the college girls I'm so used to! They are busty and curvy! They almost drained me!"

Yang Chen wanted to beat him up but then he remembered that he was no better than Liu Minghao when they were the same age. He couldn't say anything so he coughed. "Luckily I didn't let Zhenxiu date you. You're no better than me."

Liu Minghao defended himself. "That was different! I was serious about dating Zhenxiu! She rejected me so I had to play with other girls instead! I would have been loyal to her otherwise!"

"Bullshit! No one would believe you. You're the same as your father!" Yang Chen said in disdain.

Liu Minghao's face darkened. "Hmph, he's not my father! I refuse to have a father like him!"

Yang Chen frowned. It seemed like Liu Minghao did find something out but it wasn't the right time to talk about it. He told Gao Yu, "We're leaving. I'm bringing him back to Zhonghai so you can continue licking her feet. Hopefully, your breath won't stay smelly after that."

Chapter 840 - My Mom Is Older

My Mom Is Older

Liu Minghao was unwilling to leave. "Brother-in-law, don't take me away! I wanna stay here, I don't wanna go back!"

"I'm not asking for your permission. I'll give you two choices, either you go back to Zhonghai awake or I'll bring you back asleep. I suggest going with the former option. The latter is just more pain."

Liu Minghao scrunched his face. "Is there no third option?"

"The third option is I castrate you right here right now," Yang Chen said nonchalantly.

Liu Minghao covered his crotch. "I'll go with you, the first option! Definitely the first one!"

“Seems like you haven’t quite lost your mind.” Yang Chen patted his head and left for the door.

Liu Minghao gave a bitter smile and greeted Gao Yu before running after Yang Chen hurriedly.

Right after they walked out of the headquarters of the Giant Whale Society, Yang Chen pulled Liu Minghao into a corner and asked, “Why did you contact the Giant Whale Society? What did Gao Yu tell you?”

Yang Chen thought the whole thing was fishy.

Liu Minghao didn’t dare to lie, seeing Yang Chen acting so serious about it. “My mom was close friends with the head of the Giant Whale Society, Uncle Gao Feng before she died. We couldn’t keep in touch as they were located overseas. Gao Yu contacted me some time ago for lunch. We caught up quite a bit. He’s nice to me.”

“I told him that I wanted to seek refuge from him when I quarreled with my dad this morning. I wanted to start from a low position in the Giant Whale Society and defeat my dad when I get strong enough. But Gao Yu told me that I was still young and immature, that I should think it through before acting on it. He bought me food and brought me out to play... then you came.”

Yang Chen contemplated for a while and said, “Is that all?”

Liu Minghao thought for a while and nodded. “That’s all. How did you know I was here? I threw my phone into the water.”

Yang Chen smacked his head. “You ran away from home when you’re not even an adult. And you dare to visit someone else in hopes of defeating your own father? If that happened, I would have to watch your sister and stepmom cry day and night!”

Liu Minghao felt bad. “I know what I did was wrong to my sister and aunt. But my mom was killed by that bastard! How could I call a man like that my father?”

“Who told you that?” Yang Chen frowned.

Liu Minghao stuttered, “From my mom’s old friend... but I can’t say who it is. I promised not to.”

Yang Chen asked in disdain, “Did you even bother to verify it?”

Liu Minghao was caught off guard. “I didn’t need to. My mom’s death was too sudden and weird! Plus, I was provided with a very detailed recount of what happened. The people in the Green Dragon Society didn’t want to tell me anything so I bet they were ordered not to do so!”

Yang Chen was frustrated at Liu Qingshan. He was so bad at lying that he couldn’t even lie to his idiot son. But he probably wasn’t trying to hide it from his son. So in the end, Liu Minghao figured it out.

“You said you knew the details so why did you think your dad would kill your mom without any reason?”

Liu Minghao gritted his teeth. “Even if my mom did something wrong, she’s still my mom! A woman who stood by him all those years!”

“What happened that night was that your mom wanted to kill your dad,” Yang Chen said.

Liu Minghao asked with suspicion, "Brother-in-law, it seems like you know what happened? You've known about it all this while, haven't you?!"

Yang Chen poked his forehead. "You only cared about your mother but not your father. If your dad was the one who died, would you kill your mom? Even if they did fight, it wasn't to hurt you. Have you ever thought that they hid it from you because they didn't want you to overthink? Don't forget that you have family members who will worry about you."

Liu Minghao kept quiet with a stubborn expression on his face.

Yang Chen gave up on talking some sense into him as he was still caught up with the Giant Whale Society. He shook his head, unable to think of their role in this incident, so he shoved Liu Minghao into the car and left for Zhonghai.

Twenty minutes later, they drove the car onto the highway.

There weren't a lot of cars since it wasn't a holiday or a weekend. Under the moonlight, the white BMW sped like a rocket.

Liu Minghao yelled in excitement when he saw the car reach speeds of over two hundred and forty kilometers per hour. "Brother-in-law! You're my idol! How can you drive so fast?!"

Yang Chen glanced over. "It's only at two hundred ish and you're already so excited. You should behave when you get back and don't ever think about running away from home again. If I have to run all the way to Su Province again, I'll throw you off the bridge and let the river send you to the sea."

Liu Minghao smiled sheepishly. "It would be nice if you were my dad. But my mom is much older than you are so that could never happen."

Yang Chen almost lost control of the steering wheel!

How did Mingyu get a brother like him?!?he thought.

Yang Chen wanted to turn on the music so that he wouldn't have to listen to Liu Minghao.

But just when he was going to press the button, he sensed danger!

"Boom!"

The engine had fired up and the flames spread towards the whole car. In the next second, the car had exploded in flames!

From afar the car was already swallowed by flames. The car was blasted into pieces around the highway!

The explosion could have lit up another car but luckily there wasn't anyone around.

A man was seen walking out of the flames, carrying someone in his arms.

Yang Chen placed the frightened Liu Minghao down, far from the flames. He turned around and looked at the car that had turned into black ashes.

Fire blazed in his eyes.

Liu Minghao's legs turned wobbly. All he knew was that after a loud blast, he was being carried by Yang Chen through the flames, untouched by the heat.

"Br—brother-in-law... Wha—what happened..."

Yang Chen turned around with an expressionless face. "Someone must have installed a bomb underneath the car when I was away and ignited it remotely."

"Bomb?" Liu Minghao was dumbfounded. "Who..."

"Who else could it be?" Yang Chen sneered.

Liu Minghao finally put two and two together and he yelled, "Brother Gao Yu?! No way! Why would he do that?!"

"We'll have to ask him," Yang Chen replied as he walked to the middle of the highway.

Liu Minghao was stupefied, "Brother-in-law, wha—what should we do now?"

Yang Chen threw a question back at him. "What would you do if someone bullies you?"

"I'll seek my revenge! Finish him!" Liu Minghao sucked in his breath. "Brother-in-law! Are you going back to find Gao Yu?! Their society is very strong! I heard from my dad that they're doing business with the firearm and drug dealers. Specialized in smuggling, they are one of the strongest societies in this country! Shouldn't we go back to investigate before reaching a conclusion?"

Yang Chen frowned and looked at him. "You can go back yourself. I didn't say I would bring you along after all."

Right at this moment, a Volvo truck was driving towards them at breakneck speeds!

"Move, brother-in-law! You're gonna get hit!" Liu Minghao screamed in horror.

Yang Chen grinned, looking excited. "Not bad, not bad. It seems like he is pretty decent at his job. This makes things more interesting."