

Yang Fengqi was also a descendant of the Yangs. Moreover, he used to be the most qualified person to stand up to Yang Wanlin for the position of head of the family. It was all in the past now because he had grown into a good-for-nothing brat while Yang Wanlin grew to be a better man. Besides, Yang Bin no longer valued him as much as he did Yang Wanlin.

Even so, Yang Fengqi still yearned for the position of head of the family. He did everything he could think of to get Yang Bin's recognition once again. Nonetheless, Yang Bin would never pay his crooked ways any attention.

He was the one who spread ill rumors of the Yangs during the Martial Arts Summit. He was hoping his family would be tangled up in a mess in order to create an opportunity for him to prove himself.

Just as Yang Fengqi was coming up with ideas as to how he would go about it, Yang Wanlin suddenly barged into his room without so much as a polite knock on his door.

"Yang Wanlin, what is the meaning of this? This is my room. Don't you know how to knock?" Yang Fengqi gave Yang Wanlin a hostile look.

Yang Wanlin shrugged noncommittally and said, "Why would I need to knock? It's just your room."

Yang Fengqi gritted his teeth in anger and questioned, "What do you mean?"

"I mean, the Yangs will be under my care in the future. That would make you just a resident in my house," Yang

Wanlin said smugly.

Yang Fengqi went green with envy. Although he knew Yang Wanlin had a better chance at becoming head of the family, that doesn't mean that the latter was in a position to say it since it still wasn't confirmed.

"Yang Wanlin, the dust has yet to settle, don't be too cocky. Aren't you worried that I will become head of the family instead and that your disrespectful actions today will put you at a disadvantage in the future?" Yang Fengqi said.

Yang Wanlin smiled and shook his head. "Yang Fengqi, I know you want to fight for this position as well. But have you ever thought of whether you are qualified? I just came from the Patriarch's study and he clearly mentioned that I will inherit his position as head of the family."

"That's impossible!" Yang Fengqi widened his eyes. *There's no way the Patriarch would decide so easily for such an important matter. Moreover, he only told Yang Wanlin about it.*

"Do you want to know why I came for you?" asked Yang Wanlin.

"To show off? But I'm telling you, there's no point. You're not the true head of the family until the Patriarch calls for a family meeting and announces it officially to everyone else," said Yang Fengqi.

Yang Wanlin shook his head and said, "I have no intention of showing off. I'm just here to warn you to stop all your nonsense. If you insist on causing trouble, I won't

go easy on you. Oh, by the way, it was the Patriarch who said it, not me.”

Yang Fengqi’s heart skipped a beat and panic flashed in his eyes.

Yang Wanlin continued, “Do you really think the Patriarch isn’t aware of everything you’ve been doing? He is well aware of the rumors you’ve spread up till now.”

“T-This is slander!” Yang Fengqi said.

“You know well enough whether this is slander or not. I’m just here to give you a warning so that you can avoid the fate of being driven out of the family. The Patriarch also told me to take note of anyone and everyone who has been speaking ill of him.” With that, Yang Wanlin left Yang Fengqi’s room.

Yang Fengqi’s face turned pale and his legs became weak. He thought he had done well to cover his actions.

He couldn’t help but fell into despair. He would never be able to win the Patriarch’s favor now that the older man knew what he had been doing behind his back. His hope of becoming head of the family had drifted away.

Suddenly, his eyes turned cold. He knew then he would never be able to win Yang Wanlin in his current situation.

The only way left was to kill the latter. That was the only way Yang Fengqi could ever stand a chance at becoming head of the family.

“Yang Wanlin, you forced my hand.”

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Ad



At the same time.

At the Wang family household.

The head of the Wangs, Wang Linqi was pondering on the Yangs' decision to send Han Jingru as representative for the Summit. He didn't buy the rumors of how Yang Bin had gone senile at all.

Wang Linqi knew deep down what kind of a man Yang Bin was after being his opponent for decades. Besides, Yang Bin had always taken the Martial Arts Summit seriously and hence, would never treat it as a joke this time around.

That being said, Wang Linqi was certain that Han Jingru was indeed just a good-for-nothing brat in the Han family. He couldn't wrap his head around the Yangs' idea of sending Han Jingru out as the only representative for their family.

"Grandpa, I've actually met Han Jingru once before." Wang Li knew what Wang Linqi was distressed about. He recalled his meeting with Han Jingru and Yang Wanlin together at Mulinsi Nightclub. At that time, he nearly died laughing when Yang Wanlin wanted Han Jingru to act on his behalf.

Of course, what Wang Li didn't know was that the person he met that night wasn't Han Jingru but Han Yu. Otherwise, things would have ended differently.

"Is that so?" Wang Li's words piqued Wang Linqi's curiosity as he asked, "What kind of a man do you think Han Jingru is then?"

“He’s just a useless good-for-nothing brat.” Wang Li proceeded to tell Wang Linqi everything that had happened that night.

After hearing his recount, Wang Linqi felt strange that Yang Bin would let such a good-for-nothing brat handle such an important matter.

Wang Linqi took a deep breath and said, “I feel like we’re missing something so don’t let your guard down. I need you to find out everything about Han Jingru and report back to me. I need to know what Yang Bin is up to.”

“Grandpa, could it be that Yang Bin has given up? After all, the Yangs didn’t perform well at the Martial Arts Summit for the past two years. Maybe he has resigned to fate,” Wang Li guessed.

Wang Linqi shook his head without hesitation and said, “Yang Bin is a stubborn old man. I know better than anyone else in the entire Yan City that he would never resign himself to fate until the day he dies. I’m sure that the old man is still paving the way for the Yangs’ future.”

Wang Li didn’t dare refute even though his opinion differed from Wang Linqi. He could only accept his grandfather’s opinion at face value.

“Grandpa, I will go check if I can find out more about Han Jingru then,” said Wang Li.

“It would be best if you can find out everything that had happened to him in recent years. You can start with the Yaos since I heard that they had helped him out during the Chamber of Commerce banquet, so presumably, they must have something to do with him as well,” said Wang

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Linqi.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As the only family in Yan City who knew what was actually going on, the Yaos were well aware that Han Jingru would amaze everyone with his skills at the Martial Arts Summit. The martial arts world and the business world would be shaken, and it will be a jaw-dropping moment for all those who looked down on Han Jingru.

“Dad, who would have thought Han Jingru would establish ties with the Yangs in such a short amount of time. Does that mean we won’t stand a chance anymore?” Even though Yao Hanxing had not accomplished anything useful up till now, he understood how important Han Jingru was to the Yaos.

Yao Yuhai once mentioned that he should establish a good rapport with Han Jingru and Yao Hanxing was doing just that. It was a pity things changed too quickly. The Yaos were no longer of use to Han Jingru after receiving the Yang’s protection.

Yao Yuhai couldn’t help but sigh upon that thought. He had wanted to provide the Yaos a brighter future with Han Jingru’s help. However, now that the Yangs had come into the picture, it seemed like the Yaos could only let the opportunity slip through their fingers.

“Yeah, he doesn’t need us anymore with the Yangs around,” Yao Yuhai said helplessly.

“Then what should we do now?” asked Yao Hanxing.

Yao Yuhai had come up with tons of ideas as to how he could go about it. However, all these ideas paled in comparison when faced with powerful families such as the Yangs. The Yaos would never be able to help Han

Jingru out as much as the Yangs could.

“I have an idea, but you would need to let go of your dignity,” said Yao Yuhai.

“What is it?” Yao Hanxing asked curiously.

“The Yao family would need to become Han Jingru’s subordinate or even his servants. That way, we can receive the glory together,” said Yao Yuhai.

The word “servants” sounded a little harsh to Yao Hanxing. He was, after all, still a young master. He would never accept becoming someone else’s servant. Moreover, Han Jingru had yet to become a big shot. It was still uncertain as to how he would turn out in the future.

The Yaos would lose everything if Han Jingru failed.

“Dad, don’t you think this is too risky? Even though Han Jingru is getting along well with the Yangs, we’re still not sure how he will end up,” said Yao Hanxing.

“I’ve taken this into account before, but it would only make sense for us to make such an early decision. I’m afraid Han Jingru wouldn’t accept us anymore if we were to fawn over him when he really becomes a big shot,” said Yao Yuhai.

Just as the father-son duo was discussing what they should do, the doorbell rang.

The two exchanged looks before Yao Hanxing got up to answer the door.

He was shocked when he saw that it was Wang Li.

“Wang Li, why are you here?” Yao Hanxing asked incredulously. *Why would the Wangs, who is one of the three major families in Yan City, visit the Yaos in person when we had nothing to do with each other?*

“Isn’t it an honor for me to visit you?” A faint smile crossed Wang Li’s face.

An honor?

Yao Hanxing was scornful of Wang Li but dared not offend him. After all, he wouldn’t want to provoke the Wangs and make things difficult for his own family.

“Come in,” was Yao Hanxing’s response.

Yao Yuhai, who was sitting on the living room’s sofa, was so shocked when he saw that it was Wang Li that he jumped to his feet.

“Young Master Wang, to what do I owe this pleasure?” Yao Yuhai smiled and asked.

Wang Li felt irritated by his flattery since he was sick and tired of the pretentious acts people put on in front of him.

“I’m here today only for one thing. I hope you guys can be honest with me. Or else, I won’t hold back,” Wang Li said coldly.

Yao Yuhai and Yao Hanxing could tell that the man before them did not come in peace. They even had a feeling that Wang Li’s visit had everything to do with Han

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Jingru.

“Young Master Wang, just ask whatever question you have and I will tell you everything I know,” said Yao Yuhai.

“What is your relationship with Han Jingru? And why did the Yangs allow him to represent their family in the Martial Arts Summit?” asked Wang Li.

“Um...” Yao Yuhai shot Wang Li an uneasy look before he smiled bitterly and said, “Young Master Wang, you’re putting me in a difficult situation. How would I know about the Yangs? It seems like you’ve overestimated my capabilities.”

“Why did you help Han Jingru at the Chamber of Commerce banquet then?” Wang Li continued.

Yao Yuhai sighed and said, “Young Master Wang, I’ll be truthful with you since you came here personally. I was actually ordered to help Han Jingru back then.”

“Ordered? By whom? The Yangs?” Wang Li frowned.

“Yes, Yang Wanlin came to see me before hoping that I would be able to help Han Jingru out at the banquet. But he never told me why. I’m sure you’re well aware that we’re just a small family. We wouldn’t dare defy the Yangs and could only do as we’re told.”

Yao Yuhai paused and continued, “I assume you also know about the mess our family was in some time ago.”

Wang Li gave Yao Hanxing a look and said, “You mean the time when he was targeted by a hitman?”

“That’s right. I exhausted all ties but couldn’t tackle the issue. It was then that the Yangs suddenly came to me and said that they would solve it for me if I helped Han Jingru out during the Chamber of Commerce banquet. Hence, I agreed to it. As to why the Yangs wanted me to do such a thing, I really don’t know,” Yao Yuhai said.

Wang Li didn’t doubt his words as he stared at the distressed yet sincere look on Yao Yuhai’s face. Because he had met Han Jingru before and knew how useless the man was, it would never occur to him that Han Jingru was actually the one who had helped the Yaos solve their troubles, nor that the Yangs did what they did because they valued Han Jingru’s capabilities.

“The Yaos didn’t really develop much in the past two years,” Wang Li suddenly said.

Yao Yuhai arched a brow and said, “Don’t worry, Young Master Wang. You will be the first to know if the Yangs gave any more instructions.”

A faint smile crossed Wang Li’s face. *It seemed that Yao Yuhai isn’t a foolish man, after all. He knew exactly what I was getting at.*

“Well then, I will take my leave. I don’t mind helping out the Yaos if I’m satisfied with your news.” With that, Wang Li got up and left.

After Yao Hanxing was sure that Wang Li had left, he asked, “Dad, are you going to become a double agent?”

“Nonsense, what else can I say besides this? Do you want me to offend him?” Yao Yuhai replied helplessly.

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“Then, what do you plan to do now?” Yao Hanxing asked.

Yao Yuhai took a deep breath and said, “Seems like we have to pay Han Jingru a visit. We need to make a decision now. I’m afraid he’s the only one who can protect us from getting entangled into this mess.”

The Yaos were merely cannon fodder in the dispute between the Yangs and the Wangs. Hence, the most sensible choice at the moment was to look for Han Jingru so that the Yao family would not get trampled in the process.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Initially, Yao Yuhai was still slightly hesitant about the decision. However, after Wang Li appeared, he knew that he was out of options. Only by becoming Han Jingru's ally could the Yao family emerge out of this chaos unscathed.

On the surface, the face-off between the Yang and Wang families seemed to be a battle between these two elite families. Yet, in reality, many smaller families would be sacrificed and destroyed along with this huge conflict.

Yao Hanxing took the initiative to contact Han Jingru and ask him out for a meal. They arranged to meet at night.

As Han Jingru did not know that Wang Li had approached the Yao family, he was oblivious to why Yao Hanxing called him. Hence, he went for the meeting as he was filled with curiosity.

That night, they met at the most famous restaurant in the west district of Yan City.

When Han Jingru saw Yao Yuhai and his son, he discovered that they seemed inexplicably nervous and restrained.

"Did something happen and you need my help?" He went straight to the point after sitting down.

Yao Hanxing shot a glance at Yao Yuhai before replying, "Jingru, the Yao family wishes to merge with Dynasty."

When Han Jingru heard that, he immediately frowned.

Merge with Dynasty!

The Yao family probably knows that the Yang family is secretly backing Dynasty up. The merger he proposed means that the Yao family's business will be acquired by Dynasty. In other words, all of its assets will be diverted to Dynasty, while they lose control over a portion of its business.

This puzzled Han Jingru greatly.

Yao Yuhai has spent half of his life building his business empire. Why is he suddenly offering it to me for no reason?

"Yao Hanxing, I'm actually surprised by what you just said," remarked Han Jingru.

"Dynasty has a bright future ahead of it. The Yao family would like a share in that too," replied Yao Yuhai with a smile.

Han Jingru smirked coldly, not believing him. Although the Yao family's future development was not as promising as Dynasty's, they could still control its assets at this stage and remain as the boss.

Once they merged with Dynasty, their status would take a drastic reversal. After yielding absolute control of the Yao family's assets, they would only be a less significant shareholder.

Why would they offer Dynasty all their assets for no reason?

"Tell me what you're planning to do. I want to know the reason," instructed Han Jingru.

Yao Hanxing glanced at Yao Yuhai.

Initially, he had planned to let Yao Hanxing negotiate with Han Jingru. Now that he was so eager on finding out the truth, it was evidently impossible to conceal it from him anymore. He had no choice but to divulge the actual reason.

“To be honest, Wang Li visited us to ask about you today,” admitted Yao Yuhai.

Han Jingru had met Wang Li before and knew that he harbored a huge grudge against Yang Wanlin. The reason why he visited the Yao family probably had something to do with the Martial Arts Summit. After all, this was a topic much cared about and discussed by those in the upper echelons of Yan City.

As the Yang family’s enduring rival, it was possible that the Wang family was curious about the candidates joining the Martial Arts Summit and wanted to investigate it.

“What did you tell him?” asked Han Jingru.

Yao Yuhai quickly waved his hands and assured, “Don’t worry, we didn’t say anything.”

“Since you didn’t say anything, the reason why you want to merge with Dynasty is not that you’re trying to compensate for anything. Let me consider it then.” Han Jingru smiled slightly.

Soon, he figured out the real reason and asked, “You’re afraid that the conflict between the Yang and Wang family would affect the Yao family and drag all of you

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down? Is that why you want to seek my protection?"

Yao Yuhai nodded honestly and explained, "Although this has nothing to do with the Yao family, the fact that Wang Li visited us means that we have already been dragged into this mess. Once the two families start fighting, the Yao family would be nothing but insignificant cannon fodder."

Han Jingru could understand Yao Yuhai's concern. In comparison to mighty families like the Yangs and Wangs, the Yaos were nothing. In fact, calling them cannon fodder was already an overestimation.

"In order to protect the Yao family, you're willing to give up control over your assets. That's a huge sacrifice. Aren't you worried that I'll abandon you after exploiting the Yao family?" asked Han Jingru.

Naturally, Yao Yuhai was concerned about that. It was the reason why he kept hesitating earlier.

However, he already had no choice now.

Most importantly, he believed that Han Jingru would not do that.

"You probably won't believe my explanation, but my instincts tell me that you won't do such a thing. You might not even be interested in power at all," revealed Yao Yuhai.

I am not, indeed.

Yao Yuhai's guess is actually accurate.

After all, he was someone who could make the S Nation Assassin Organization tremble in fear.

“Never mind. Looking at how anxious your son is, you should spend some time explaining to him.” With that, Han Jingru smiled and left.

Still confused, Yao Hanxing asked Yao Yuhai, “What is he talking about, Dad?”

He glanced at Yao Hanxing disdainfully and scoffed, “I wonder who you inherited your intelligence from. Can’t you understand such a simple thing?”

“Dad, just tell me directly. I’m so clueless about what’s happening,” insisted Yao Hanxing bitterly.

Yao Yuhai glanced at him and explained, “Since he didn’t reject us, it means that he has already agreed.”

It suddenly dawned upon Yao Hanxing after hearing that.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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A day passed, there were only two days left to the Martial Arts Summit.

The discussion surrounding Han Jingru intensified instead of fading away. Everyone looked forward to the summit eagerly, hoping to see how capable he was. After all, the Yang family, who valued him a lot, took such a huge risk by pinning all their hopes onto him.

Although they looked forward to the summit, they did not expect Han Jingru to perform exceptionally well. This was because he was only fourteen years old, while the other candidates in the Martial Arts Summit were all adults. A mere child would barely stand a chance of victory when fighting against them.

One day before the summit, Yan Qiong visited Han Jingru's place.

After he appeared, Shi Yan left the house, using the excuse that she needed to buy some groceries.

"Grandpa Yan, why are you here?" asked Han Jingru.

"You're going to attend the Martial Arts Summit tomorrow and everyone in Yan City is focusing their attention on you. Of course, I have to visit you!" replied Yan Qiong helplessly. He felt surprised after finding out about this. The Martial Arts Summit was the most prestigious fighting competition in Yan City, with only the most elite fighters taking part each year. As even Yan Qiong himself would struggle when competing in it, he felt worried for Han Jingru.

Although he had witnessed the extent of Han Jingru's abilities, he still could not help feeling anxious as his

elder.

“You don’t have to worry about such an insignificant matter like this, Grandpa Yan. I can deal with it,” assured Han Jingru with a smile.

“I know that you’re very strong, but there are always extremely capable fighters joining the Martial Arts Summit each year. You must be very careful,” reminded Yan Qiong.

“Grandpa Yan, will you believe me if I say that I don’t even care about this competition? In fact, I don’t even think that any of the competitors are a match for me,” answered Han Jingru.

Yan Qiong frowned. Although this was not his first time witnessing Han Jingru’s arrogance, there was also a strong sense of confidence undergirding it. He could not help but wonder if Han Jingru was joking.

How strong must he be to view the Martial Arts Summit with such contempt?

“Of course I’m willing to believe you. However, you will have a higher chance of victory if you are more careful. Furthermore, if you can truly shine in the Martial Arts Summit, your life will change drastically,” said Yan Qiong.

My life will change drastically?

After deliberating about it, Han Jingru guessed why Yan Qiong said that.

The Apocalypse would seek out gifted people in the mundane world to find new blood for the organization. It

would definitely not miss such a grand event like the Martial Arts Summit. This meant that some members of the Apocalypse would be hidden in the audience. If he performed well enough, he had a chance of joining them.

However, Han Jingru did not need such an opportunity at all. As he used to be a Platinum rank fighter in the Apocalypse, he was strong enough to even overthrow Mr. Yi.

Despite that, Yan Qiong's words still reminded him that he had told the Yang family that he was a Platinum rank fighter. Yet, in reality, he had not been recognized by the Apocalypse at this stage. If his lie was to be exposed, it might cause unnecessary trouble.

Yan Qiong suddenly frowned. *I thought that Han Jingru will definitely be curious and ask why his life would change drastically. Why is he staying silent? Is he not curious about it at all?*

"Aren't you curious why your life will change?" asked Yan Qiong, unable to suppress his doubt.

It was not because Han Jingru was not curious at all, but because he understood it better than Yan Qiong. As he could not reveal it now, he hurriedly said, "I was thinking about it, but I still can't figure it out. Why don't you just tell me directly?"

Yan Qiong nodded solemnly. "What I'm going to tell you is top secret. You must not tell it to anyone casually."

Han Jingru nodded with a serious expression.

Then, Yan Qiong started explaining to Han Jingru about

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Ad



the Apocalypse. Naturally, what he said was all hearsay. As he had never come in contact with the Apocalypse, he could only gather scraps of information from others.

Although he was mistaken about the Apocalypse in some parts, Han Jingru did not correct him. Instead, he listened attentively.

After Yan Qiong finished speaking, Han Jingru feigned surprise and exclaimed, "Grandpa Yan, I can't believe that such a place exists in this world!"

"Yeah!" Equally awed, Yan Qiong said, "In the martial arts realm, there'll always be someone who's stronger no matter what. Therefore, you must not underestimate anyone."

"Thank you for your reminder, Grandpa Yan. I will definitely take every opponent seriously," promised Han Jingru.

Yan Qiong glanced at the clock and saw that it was almost time to return to the Han residence. He stood up and said, "I'm going back now. I'll watch your competition tomorrow."

"Let me send you home, Grandpa Yan." Han Jingru stood up too.

"It's fine. Although I'm getting old, I'm not so senile that I'll lose my way." He was about to leave when he suddenly stopped in his tracks and told Han Jingru, "I must tell you about something. Nangong Shuxian has a powerful background and she's someone who holds grudges. You must be careful."

He was referring to the Nangong family. Han Jingru had already realized this long ago. If Nangong Shuxian ran out of options, it was highly possible that she would seek help from Nangong Boling.

However, he was not too worried about this because Nangong Boling was easy to deal with. Everything he did was motivated by the goal to enter the Apocalypse. As long as Han Jingru knew about this, he had won half the battle without even needing to fight.

However, he still had not figured out why Nangong Boling was so persistent. He sacrificed a lot for this goal, with the Terra Prison only being the tip of the iceberg. Han Jingru could not imagine what exactly Nangong Boling was after that was compelling enough for him to achieve it using all means possible.

Soon after Yan Qiong left, Shi Yan arrived home punctually. She did not probe about why he had come either. After all, she had vaguely heard the discussions circulating in the upper echelons of society. Although she did not understand the reasons behind Han Jingru's actions, she knew for sure that he was determined to prove himself.

"What do you want for dinner tonight?" Shi Yan asked Han Jingru.

Still having doubts about her cooking skills, Han Jingru asked, "Are you sure that your cooking skills have become so good that I can place orders now?"

Shi Yan felt a bit embarrassed. As she had only started learning, she did not even have a signature dish, let alone being able to take orders.

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“Why don’t I decide instead?” suggested Shi Yan.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Han Jingru had a good night's sleep. While he was completely unbothered by the Martial Arts Summit tomorrow, Shi Yan was so worried that she could not fall asleep at all.

Although she did not know how well he would perform at the Martial Arts Summit, she knew that this was a chance for him to prove himself in front of so many families. If he failed, he might be utterly defeated that he would not have a chance to rise up again.

She did not have high expectations for a fourteen-year-old teenager, but she desperately wished that Han Jingru would do well. Hopefully, he could prove Nangong Shuxian wrong, and make her realize how foolish it was to underestimate Han Jingru.

At midnight, Shi Yan's phone suddenly rang, displaying a call from Han Ying. It was obvious that he was so worried that he could not fall asleep, just like her.

"What?" asked Shi Yan calmly. Ever since she left the Han family, her relationship with Han Ying had reached rock bottom.

"Jingru will be taking part in the Martial Arts Summit tomorrow. I really can't fall asleep. Thinking that you might be in the same situation as me, I called you to ask about it," replied Han Ying. As Shi Yan had picked up the call quickly, he knew that his guess was correct— she could not fall asleep too.

"You are concerned about him?" scoffed Shi Yan in disdain.

Han Ying chuckled bitterly, feeling helpless. Although Shi

Yan had the liberty to storm out of the house, he did not. After all, he was part of the Han family. After Han Xiuzhi left, he needed to support the family business. Regardless of who Nangong Shuxian was pinning her hopes on, there were many things that required Han Ying's immediate attention.

"Honey, don't you understand that I have no other choice?" asked Han Ying.

"Why would a housewife like me understand? If there's nothing else, I'll hang up now," snapped Shi Yan.

"Please take good care of Jingru. He's our son, after all. If things don't work out, tell him not to put up a tough front. The Martial Arts Summit is not a joke. Although there were never any fatalities, people have ended up in a coma. I am sure you know this too," said Han Ying.

After Shi Yan listened to what he had to say, she did not want to waste any more time with him and hung up directly.

This was the reason why she was so worried that she could not fall asleep. Although the Martial Arts Summit had a rule prohibiting contestants from killing their opponent in the boxing ring or threatening their lives, there was only a thin line between a prolonged coma and death.

Shi Yan was worried that the worst outcome would happen to Han Jingru. In fact, she had even planned to stop him from joining the Martial Arts Summit.

However, this was a chance for him to prove himself. Therefore, she could not find any reason to convince him

to give up.

At that moment, she suddenly stood up and walked towards her bed. Facing the moon, she knelt on her knees and prayed, "God, please protect Jingru and don't let him get injured."

When Han Jingru woke up the next morning, Shi Yan had already finished preparing breakfast. Although it was just a simple meal of eggs and a glass of milk, it was enough for him.

"Are you busy today, Mom?" asked Han Jingru.

She was stunned for a while before quickly saying, "No. Do you want me to accompany you?"

"Since you're free, just watch it for fun," suggested Han Jingru.

"Okay, give me a moment. I'll pack up right away." With that, she quickly returned to her bedroom.

Shi Yan initially planned to go to the Martial Arts Summit secretly after Han Jingru left. Since he took the initiative to invite her, there was no need for her to sneak around now.

Although she would usually spend a lot of time dressing up before leaving the home, she did not want to waste Han Jingru's time. Hence, she spent barely ten minutes getting ready. Although her outfit was simple, it could not mask her dignified aura. Her makeup was light, yet pretty.

Han Jingru had always wondered why Shi Yan married

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Han Ying. Their appearances were miles apart. The only answer Han Jingru eventually arrived at was that the Han family was rich.

Although this might be slightly disrespectful to Shi Yan, he could not think of any other reasons except for it.

“Mom, what made you take a liking to Dad back then?” asked Han Jingru jokingly.

“Well, the rich always get a happy ending. I’m just an ordinary person, but your Dad spent a lot of effort pursuing me. Just like that, he managed to sweep me off my feet,” replied Shi Yan with a smile.

Han Jingru burst out laughing when he heard that the rich always got a happy ending. However, it was a true statement.

On the other hand, the poor could only watch on with envy as they were not able to have a happy ending of their own.

After some time, they left their house.

The Martial Arts Summit was hosted in an exclusive venue, which was located in a suburb in the west district. The place would be extremely crowded whenever the summit was held. As none of the wealthy people in Yan City wanted to miss such a grand event, there would often be a sudden surge of visitors at this normally deserted place during this time.

Due to the Martial Arts Summit, the ordinary suburbs was instantly transformed into a prosperous place, with vendors enthusiastically selling things on the streets.

“Wu Xin, the friend I’m introducing you to today is an extremely wealthy heir. Without his help, we can’t even manage to come here. If you are lucky enough to catch his eye and marry into a rich family, please don’t forget me.”

There were two sexily dressed women who stood out of the crowd. One of them was Wu Xin, Han Jingru’s neighbor.

Her best friend was the reason why she appeared there. However, she was not there to hook up with a rich man. Instead, she was merely curious about how the Martial Arts Summit looked like.

“Have you already sold me away? Let me tell you this. I’m only here to watch the Martial Arts Summit, not to hook up with anyone,” clarified Wu Xin.

Her best friend laughed and replied, “Even if you want to hook up with them, they might not want you. Do you think that these rich heirs have never seen beautiful women before? There are always women flocking around them. It’s not going to be easy to catch their eye.”

“That’s a relief. I was afraid that someone might take a fancy to me,” replied Wu Xin as she pouted cheekily.

At that moment, a few men walked toward them from the opposite side. Dressed in branded clothes and exuding a dignified aura, it was obvious that they were not just ordinary people.

The fact that they were there already indicated that they came from extraordinary backgrounds. After all, the average joe would be unable to get their hands on the

tickets to the Martial Arts Summit.

“Chen Shao, this is Wu Xin, the friend whom I told you about.”

Grinning, Chen Shao scanned Wu Xin from head to toe and praised flirtatiously, “I’ve heard Li Maomao say that she has a beautiful best friend. Now that I’ve seen her, I must admit that she’s indeed very pretty.”

Wu Xin felt uncomfortable by his intense gaze, which clearly betrayed what he was thinking about.

“Maomao, I’m suddenly not interested in the Martial Arts Summit anymore. I’ll leave first,” said Wu Xin as she was feeling a little uneasy.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Li Maomao quickly grabbed her hand. Pretending that nothing had happened, she protested, "Didn't you agree to accompany me? How can you leave just like that? We haven't even watched the competition yet."

With Li Maomao clinging onto her arm so tightly, she knew that this was bad news.

Li Maomao knew a lot of wealthy heirs. Wu Xin also knew that she had always dreamed of marrying into a rich family, which was why she used any means possible to befriend other rich guys. As her best friend, Wu Xin was naturally aware of the methods she had employed just to get close to them.

Although she personally found those methods shameless, that was Li Maomao's prerogative. After several failed attempts to convince her otherwise, she stopped caring about her personal affairs.

However, she had a bad feeling today. It seemed like Li Maomao deliberately brought her along because she had struck a deal with Chen Shao. She could sense that just from looking at his gaze.

"Just keep me company, okay? We'll go home after watching the competition," pleaded Li Maomao like a spoilt child as she swayed Wu Xin's arm.

When Wu Xin glanced at Chen Shao, he was still checking her out with an intense stare. It was obvious what his objective was.

"I have something important to attend to. I'll keep you company the next time," she insisted.

At that moment, an unhappy expression crossed Chen Shao's face. He asked Li Maomao angrily, "What is this, Li Maomao? Didn't we already agree?"

When she heard that, her expression changed drastically.

Seeing that, Wu Xin demanded furiously, "What did both of you agree on? What are you hiding from me?"

Li Maomao stared at her pitifully and mumbled, "Wu Xin, just help me this time. If you don't, I'm doomed."

Wu Xin, who was completely clueless, so she did not know how she was supposed to help her.

However, judging from Li Maomao's past records, she had probably lost a lot of money gambling or had exceeded the limit of her credit cards.

"How do you want me to help you?" snapped Wu Xin through gritted teeth.

"Simple. If you act as my temporary girlfriend during the Martial Arts Summit, I'll repay her debt," said Chen Shao with a smile. He was only interested in Wu Xin because he got bored of Li Maomao.

Wu Xin understood after hearing his words. She was not here to expand her horizon, or to accompany Li Maomao. Instead, her friend had sold her to this man called Chen Shao.

She may be a wild girl who loved to frequent nightclubs, bars and drinking was a pastime of hers and she would even some occasionally. However, she was clear about where her bottom line was. No matter how hard life was,

she would never exchange her body for money. It was a principle she had always stuck with.

“Regardless of what she promised you, it’s got nothing to do with me. Excuse me.” Wu Xin flung Li Maomao’s hand away and prepared to leave.

However, at that moment, Chen Shao grabbed her shoulders and smirked coldly. “You can’t leave today even if you refuse. I’d advise you to be obedient, lest you get whacked.”

Wu Xin wanted to break free from his grasp. However, she was too weak to match a man’s strength.

At that moment, Han Jingru and Shi Yan were walking toward them.

When he saw someone grabbing Wu Xin, he immediately spun around. As he had already saved her once and was unwilling to be involved with her again, he did not plan on interfering with this.

It was true that she had been drugged at the nightclub. However, if she had not gone drinking, she would not have faced any trouble.

As that was Han Jingru’s first encounter with Wu Xin that day, he felt bad so he saved her.

However, Wu Xin managed to appear at the Martial Arts Summit—a place where the average person had no right to be. She should know very well what was going to happen.

One could not escape a wealthy man’s ploy so easily.

Chapter 1161

Ad



“Mom, let’s take a look over there.” Han Jingru said to Shi Yan.

As she had just spotted someone grabbing Wu Xin, she did not hear what Han Jingru just said. Instead, she exclaimed, “Jingru, isn’t that your neighbor, Wuxin? It looks like she’s in trouble.”

That was precisely why he immediately turned around upon spotting her. “Mom, I’m here to join the competition. You wouldn’t want me to stir up more trouble, right?”

For Han Jingru’s sake, it was indeed quite unwise for him to be embroiled in more trouble now.

However, after Shi Yan and Wu Xin got to know each other, they often had enjoyable conversations together. She even had a good impression of Wu Xin. Now that she had seen Wu Xin in trouble, it was impossible for her to ignore it.

“Of course, I don’t want you to get into more trouble. However, how can we refuse to help Wu Xin when she’s in trouble?” insisted Shi Yan.

“Mom, how can an ordinary person like her appear at the Martial Arts Summit? Haven’t you thought of the reason?” Han Jingru threw the question back at her.

This reminded Shi Yan that not anyone could come to this place. As an average office lady, it was fishy that Wu Xin was here.

It was impossible for her to get in, unless she got to know a rich guy and managed to get a ticket.

Chapter 1161

Although Shi Yan was already a mother, she had the charismatic charm of a mature woman. Having taken care of herself all these years, she was still breathtakingly beautiful and hot, especially with her curvaceous figure.

“Ms. Shi? She doesn’t look that old, though,” remarked Chen Shao with a smirk.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Shi Yan immediately turned frigid upon hearing those words. As a mature woman who had once joined all sorts of occasions alongside Han Ying, she had heard of many similar instances—both explicit and implicit—and naturally knew what Chen Shao was thinking.

“Who are your parents?” Shi Yan asked sternly.

There was a rather large disparity between Chen Shao’s family in Yan City and top-tier prominent families as well as the Three Major Families, so hearing Shi Yan question him this way made Chen Shao tense up. He quickly remembered where he was now; no ordinary folk could ever show up here. *This pretty lady could be from a prominent family.*

Unclear of who he was dealing with, Chen Shao dared not go overboard with his words. Instead, he asked in return, “And who are you?”

Shi Yan may have already left the Han family, but she figured that a little name-dropping could possibly help get her out of her current predicament. “I’m Shi Yan from the Han family.”

The Han family?

Chen Shao froze for a moment before bursting into laughter.

The Han family from before could perhaps strike terror in the Chens, but now, the former was slowly waning into being a third-class prominent family. There was even a possibility that the Hans would be expelled from Yan City’s corporate world. *What’s there to fear about them?*

Chen Shao had heard a lot about Shi Yan. Many had spoken of her exquisite beauty, and looking at her now, those rumors stood true.

“The Han family? You’re not trying to scare me with that dwindling household, are you?” Chen Shao laughed as his eyes looked even more unscrupulous now. Since he wasn’t afraid of the Hans, there was no need for him to hold back in front of Shi Yan.

Hearing his response, Shi Yan understood that this man had come from a family so influential that the Hans meant nothing to him.

“Who are your parents? I might actually know them. Won’t you get into trouble for being this rude to me?” she demanded.

Chen Shao shook his head. “To be honest, Ms. Shi, even my dad’s into you. If he were to find out that his own son got to spend the night with you, not only would he not be mad, but he’d even praise me.”

Chen Shao became increasingly brazen with his words, and he was clearly harassing Shi Yan now.

Shi Yan turned red in anger. *Are kids these days this insolent? They have no respect for those older than them!*

“By the way, I heard that the trashy kid in your family would be fighting on the Yang family’s behalf. Do you have any idea how many people laughed over that? Some even said the Yang family had to be a bunch of idiots to let that guy stand in for them,” Chen Shao remarked gloatingly.

Shi Yan smirked coldly. "What was that? Did you just call the Yang family a bunch of idiots?"

A look of panic immediately appeared on Chen Shao's face. Although many people were criticizing the Yang family in secret, nobody ever dared talk about such things publicly, lest the family found out.

The Chens weren't afraid of the Hans, but in the face of the Yang family, they were nothing but clowns.

"Did I say that? You must have been hearing things. I never said anything like that." Chen Shao refused to admit it.

"You had the guts to say it, but not to admit it," replied Shi Yan. "You're nothing but a coward."

Chen Shao clenched his fists. He wanted to fight back, but the thought of his words reaching the Yang family's ears forced him to hold back.

"The Han family's done for, Shi Yan. Are you trying to piss me off on their behalf?" he threatened.

Just as Shi Yan was about to respond, Han Jingru spoke up next to her. "Kneel down and apologize to my mom, and I'll let this go."

Chen Shao shifted his gaze to Han Jingru and asked scornfully, "Who the hell are you to make me kneel and apologize?"

The amusement on Han Jingru's face grew as he spotted Yang Wanlin making his way over while Chen Shao remained oblivious.

Chapter 1162

Ad



"I'm the trashy kid you were talking about. You should apologize for your own sake."

Nangong Shuxian had never brought Han Jingru to any official events, so it was extremely rare for anyone to have met the latter. After hearing what Han Jingru had to say, Chen Shao began to eye him from head to toe.

Yet, the more Chen Shao looked at him, the more hilarious he found this entire ordeal. *I can confirm it now. The Yangs have really lost their brains!*

To think they're letting this brat join the Martial Arts Summit on their behalf, and that he's the only candidate they've submitted!

If they're not stupid, they must have gone mad.

"Do you even know what people do in a boxing ring, kid? You might piss in your pant," Chen Shao taunted.

"I don't know for sure if I'll piss myself, but I know you will. I'm giving you one last chance. Kneel and apologize to my mother." As Han Jingru spoke, Yang Wanlin was already drawing closer, and Chen Shao didn't have much time left.

"Stop giving me that bullsh*t, little boy. You think you have the right to threaten me?" Chen Shao scoffed.

"What right?" At this moment, Yang Wanlin approached them and heard what Chen Shao had said.

"Mind your own..." Just as Chen Shao turned and was about to run his mouth, he instantly swallowed all his words upon seeing Yang Wanlin.

“Yang... Mr. Yang! When did you get here?” Chen Shao gazed at him like a terrified bird.

Yang Wanlin didn't bother sparing Chen Shao even a glance. He looked only at Han Jingru.

“What's going on, Jingru?” asked Yang Wanlin.

“Oh, nothing much. I just heard this big shot say that the Yang family had to be stupid to let me take part in the Martial Arts Summit on their behalf. I told him to apologize, but instead of listening to me, he even said I had no right to threaten him.”

Someone wet himself.

And it wasn't Han Jingru—it was Chen Shao.

His legs turning into jelly, the latter was so frightened that he pissed on himself after hearing Han Jingru's words.

Having Yang Wanlin find out about this was equivalent to a death sentence for the Chen family. The latter would never survive now that Chen Shao had offended the Yang family.

Yang Wanlin glared at Chen Shao frostily.

Chen Shao fell to the floor in horror as a million curses ran through his mind. Had he known Yang Wanlin would show up, he would have even prostrated himself in front of Han Jingru without any hesitation, let alone kneel and apologize.

“You said that?” asked Yang Wanlin.

Chen Shao instinctively shook his head in denial, for this was all he could do. Who would ever dare admit this in front of Yang Wanlin?

“But my pal here never lies. Besides, it’s not like he’d slander you without any reason.”

“I didn’t say that, Mr. Yang. I really didn’t! Don’t believe what he’s telling you,” Chen Shao insisted.

In response, Yang Wanlin landed a kick on Chen Shao’s face before giving out an order. “Go home and tell your family this. You have one day to sell all your assets and get the hell out of Yan City.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chen Shao frantically scurried off on both his legs and hands. He had never imagined getting into such trouble just from coming over to have some fun.

Considering Yang Wanlin's status in the Yang family, anything he said was an order on behalf of the entire household. At this point, the Chens had no other choice but to sell off their assets and leave the city.

"Thank you for saving me again," Wu Xin said to Han Jingru as she gazed at him with a complex expression. It was only today that she found out who Han Jingru truly was—the young master of the Han family.

Despite Han Jingru often being labeled as trash, Wu Xin believed that the man was never as rotten as the world described him to be. She was also certain that the Yang family had asked him to join in the Martial Arts Summit for anything but foolish reasons.

"I had no intention of getting involved," Han Jingru remarked blankly. Those were his real thoughts; had Shi Yan not insisted on being involved, they would have been inside the stadium by now.

Still, Wu Xin didn't care about why Han Jingru decided to help her; all that mattered was that he did, and this only made her like him even more.

"Thank you, Ms. Shi," Wu Xin said to Shi Yan.

Shi Yan hadn't known Wu Xin for very long, but the former knew what kind of person she was based on their past conversation. Then, the older woman turned to Li Maomao, who was standing next to Wu Xin. *She looks just like a gold digger. Whatever happened this time*

must've had something to do with her.

“Be careful with the friends you keep,” she reminded. “You won’t be this lucky every time.”

Wu Xin knew what Shi Yan was insinuating. She used to not care about who Li Maomao was. After all, everyone had the right to choose how they lived.

But after today’s incident, Wu Xin knew she had to stay away from Li Maomao, lest the same thing happened again in the future.

“We’re not friends anymore, Li Maomao. I won’t pursue this matter any further, but don’t ever contact me again.”

Li Maomao gritted her teeth and left without a word. She was an especially proud woman. It was also because of the inferiority complex that she constantly tried to climb up the social ladder and used branded goods to hide her insecurities.

“It’s about time. Let’s head in. The tournament’s about to begin,” Yang Wanlin reminded Han Jingru.

He nodded and headed toward the stadium.

Knowing she didn’t deserve to enter, Wu Xin turned to Shi Yan. “I’ll be heading home, Ms. Shi.”

Yet, Shi Yan shook her head. “Since you’re here, we may as well watch the tournament together. It’s no big deal anyway.”

Wu Xin naturally agreed. She was extremely curious as to how Han Jingru would perform, after all.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru was at a loss for words. Shi Yan seemed to be trying to pair him and Wu Xin up. Even though it wasn't obvious, his mother was surely up to something.

This confused Han Jingru. *Am I that unpopular to her? I'm not even an adult yet! Why is she in such a rush?*

Inside the stadium.

The majority members of the different families had already taken their respective seats. Meanwhile, many people were looking left and right as though they were searching for someone.

Han Jingru and Yang Wanlin caught everyone's attention the moment they entered the stadium.

"Look! Yang Wanlin's here!"

"Hey, don't tell me that brat next to him is Han Jingru."

"What? Look at how short he is! Can he even climb up the ring?"

"Looks like the Yangs have really lost their minds. To think that they're letting him join the Martial Arts Summit —are they trying to make us laugh?"

Those who saw Han Jingru for the first time sneered at him ruthlessly, albeit softly out of fear that Yang Wanlin would hear them.

Before Han Jingru and Yang Wanlin even sat down, Wang Li eagerly walked over to them, his eyes full of mockery. "What did you bring him here for, Yang Wanlin?"

Are you preparing for a sketch?”

Previously, Yang Wanlin had been humiliated in front of Wang Li because that useless bum, Han Yu, had disguised himself as Han Jingru. However, things were different this time. With the real Han Jingru next to him, Yang Wanlin had nothing to fear.

“What’s the point in all that nonsense, Wang Li? Let’s see what happens in the ring. By then, you’d better hold onto your mouth, or your jaw might fall off,” Yang Wanlin responded.

“No, I’m just afraid I’d cry from laughing too hard. You guys really are something, Yang Wanlin, letting a little boy enter the ring during the Martial Arts Summit,” Wang Li said with a laugh.

Yang Wanlin couldn’t be bothered to deal with Wang Li. There was no point in wasting his breath. *You’ll shut up soon enough.*

“By the way, you’re in for a little surprise today. I hope you don’t die a death too tragic, little boy,” Wang Li continued, seeing how Yang Wanlin ignored him.

Yang Wanlin’s lips contorted into a bizarre smile. He knew that the Wang family had used its connections to alter the tournament list, and Han Jingru was to be up against the Wang family’s candidate. Even so, the Yangs chose not to interfere precisely because they wanted the Wangs to pay the price of underestimating them.

The few of them sat down after finding their seats. Rather than look at all the taunting faces around him, Han Jingru shut his eyes.

“You’re playing the fifth match, Jingru, and your opponent will be from the Wang family,” Yang Wanlin reminded him softly.

“If it’s someone from the Wang family, he should be pretty tough,” Han Jingru replied blandly.

Yang Wanlin nodded. “The Wang family has three candidates representing them this time. The one you’re up against is the weakest among them, but you shouldn’t take him lightly.”

Han Jingru smirked. *Looks like the Wangs are still careful enough not to send out their strongest candidate. They’ve put some thought into this.*

“I got it.”

The tournament commenced swiftly, but most people weren’t interested in the first four matches. After all, everyone had come to see Han Jingru, for they were curious as to how he could represent the Yang family. The audience wanted to know if the Yangs had made such arrangements because Han Jingru was truly a strong fighter or because the family had indeed gone mad.

The first four matches passed quickly, and it was time for Han Jingru to shine.

At this time, Wu Xin was so nervous that her palms turned sweaty. Knowing that many among the audience looked down on Han Jingru only made her yearn for the latter’s victory even more.

Yet, she almost gave up hope the moment Han Jingru’s

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opponent showed up.

Standing before Han Jingru was a two-meter tall, heavily built man!



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The burly man looked utterly intimidating standing in the boxing ring with his hands on his hips.

Yet, he couldn't seem to gain much attention, for many had their eyes on Han Jingru instead. Everyone wanted to know what the Yangs had up their sleeves when choosing only this young boy to contest on their behalf.

Now that the secret was finally about to unveil itself, who would bother with anything else?

Wu Xin clasped her sweaty palms together. Judging from just their height alone, it was evident that Han Jingru was at a disadvantage.

"Can Jingru really defeat him, Ms. Shi?" she asked worriedly.

Shi Yan had once witnessed Han Jingru in action, and the latter immediately made Yan Qiong retire as the Han family's defender.

Despite this, she wasn't aware of Han Jingru's true strength, so she was now concerned too. *That man looks way too tough.*

"I don't know either, but... I believe in my son," Shi Yan answered. If Han Jingru had managed to found Dynasty in secret, that showed how meticulous and insightful he was. *There's no way he would've agreed to do this if he wasn't sure what he was getting himself into.*

"Don't worry. That guy's just a paper tiger. Jingru will have no problem handling him," Yang Wanlin assured.

Despite looking calm on the surface, Yang Wanlin was

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"Don't worry. That guy's just a paper tiger. Jingru will have no problem handling him," Yang Wanlin assured.

Despite looking calm on the surface, Yang Wanlin was

extremely nervous deep down. The Yang family had bet everything on Han Jingru, after all. But if he were to lose during his very first match, the Yangs would become the butt of everyone's jokes.

Han Jingru finally made his way to the boxing ring.

The burly man on stage couldn't help but laugh upon seeing Han Jingru. "Hey, little boy. Here's a word of advice. You should go home while you can. Someone your age should be playing with dirt at home! This is a game for grown adults. You'll only die here."

Compared to the large fellow, Han Jingru looked even tinier standing at the bottom of the ring, as though a dwarf had met a giant. Nobody felt Han Jingru stood any chance of winning.

Yet, with a light jump, Han Jingru flew three meters forward and landed right in the boxing ring.

Bam!

The entire ring shook, and even the huge man's body trembled slightly.

"Holy sh*t. That was a powerful jump!"

"I can't believe he jumped that high."

"What's the point? Look at his opponent's size and muscles! Can the boy beat him?"

"You're right. This isn't a jumping competition."

Han Jingru did surprise a number of people with his

stage entrance, but it didn't take long for them to settle down and feel unconfident about his victory. From just a glance, the two fighters looked far too disparate in strength.

"Hurry up and leave before the judge begins the match, or I won't hold back," the burly man said to Han Jingru.

Han Jingru merely smiled nonchalantly. *This guy is packed with muscles and looks pretty sturdy. It's a shame he's worth nothing.*

Even the judge couldn't help but ask Han Jingru, "Are you sure you want to fight him? We have a no-killing rule, but it'd be child's play for him to turn you into a vegetable."

The judge spoke because he felt sorry for Han Jingru. *He's just a child after all.*

"Start the match," Han Jingru said calmly.

The burly man suddenly put on a ferocious look. "You reckless idiot. If dying is what you want, I'll grant your wish."

The judge silently shook his head and sighed. *What did the Yang family offer him that he'd willingly bet his entire life on this match?*

He raised his right arm, signaling that the match was about to begin.

The image of Han Jingru lying in the middle of the boxing ring surfaced in almost everyone's minds, for this was the only outcome they could think of.

“Yang Bin isn’t here today, Grandpa. I’m guessing it’s because he knows he’d be humiliated,” Wang Li said to Wang Linqi with a chuckle.

Wang Linqi looked especially grim. Although his candidate seemed like the obvious winner, the old man couldn’t help but feel that something was up. *The Yang Bin I know would ever send a nobody to the ring.*

“I don’t think this matter is as simple as it looks. Let’s see what happens.”

With a downward sweeping motion of his right hand, the judge announced, “The match begins.”

In an instant, the burly man leaped into position, evidently ready to attack Han Jingru.

Maybe he didn’t want to waste another second, or maybe he couldn’t wait to teach Han Jingru a lesson.

The boxing ring trembled, along with the hearts of the audience. How was a frail boy like Han Jingru ever going to withstand the man’s attack?

“Looks like the Han family will be having a funeral soon.”

“Even if the boy doesn’t die, he’ll probably be stuck in bed for life.”

“The Wang family did this just so they could eliminate the Yangs in the preliminaries. I thought there’d be a miraculous turn of events, but I guess the Yangs really have gone mad.”

Just as the audience had already determined Han

Jingru's fate and began discussing it among themselves, the entire stadium fell silent for an instant.

Bam!

The burly man flew right out of the boxing ring and landed on the audience.

Everyone was dumbstruck at the sight.

Some even began to rub their eyes, wondering if they were hallucinating.

How could that weakling kick a huge, muscular man off the ring just like that? It's not like those muscles are made of paper!

The entire stadium fell silent for at least three minutes.

Then, everyone flew into an uproar.

"W-What the hell was that?"

"He actually..."

"No way! Did my eyes just play tricks on me?"

"Maybe that's why the Yang family only has one candidate!"

The once nervous and panic-stricken Yang Wanlin could finally take a breather, while at the same time burn with excitement.

The man had thought of several ways Han Jingru could win, but he had never expected the latter to snag a

victory in such a terrifying way.

Wu Xin was stunned into silence. Her jaw could fall to the floor anytime, and her eyes remained widened.

“D-Did you see that, Ms. Shi?” she gulped before asking Shi Yan.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Shi Yan remained in a daze for a long time. Despite having heard Wu Xin loud and clear, she didn't know how to reply due to the shock caused by what had just happened. It was as though she had just encountered a magnitude twelve earthquake.

Shi Yan had never expected Han Jingru to be this powerful. *He might be able to make it far in this Martial Arts Summit.* At the moment, the woman couldn't help but wonder if what Nangong Shuxian had said before was true.

Is Han Jingru really unworthy of being a member of the Han family?

With his abilities, isn't he more powerful than Han Yu? Doesn't that make him more eligible to head the family?

"Did you see that, Nangong Shuxian? Are you regretting it now?" Shi Yan muttered to herself.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru watched as the judge stared at him wide-eyed. "Aren't you going to declare the winner?" he asked in frustration.

The judge remained spaced out. He had never encountered such a K.O. in his past twenty-something years as a professional judge, which was why he was frozen in shock and returned to his senses only after Han Jingru called out to him.

But even after recollecting himself, he didn't know what to do.

Seeing that, Han Jingru could only raise his own right hand and ask, "Shouldn't you be saying something now?"

Finally, the judge understood what he meant. He walked over to the boy and held his raised hand. "The winner is Han Jingru!"

The audience would normally go wild after every victory, but now, everyone was pin-drop silent.

It wasn't that they didn't want to celebrate Han Jingru's victory. They were just so dumbfounded that no one had snapped back to their senses. Some even couldn't stop wondering what on earth had just happened; how could a child have sent a two-hundred-pound man flying out of the boxing ring with just one kick?

The Wang family was just as shocked.

Wang Li was extremely confident about this match since he had already met Han Jingru who behaved like nothing but a lecherous coward. *How did he become so god-like with just a change in venue?*

"H-How is that possible, Grandpa?" Wang Li asked after forcing himself to calm down.

Wang Linqi inhaled sharply. *I knew things wouldn't be as simple as they looked. Yang Bin and I have been rivals for so many years. I know how he is as a person; there's no way he would give up during an event as crucial as the Martial Arts Summit.*

But even if he knew things wouldn't be as simple, Wang Linqi certainly didn't expect such an outcome either.

Moreover, it was going to be difficult to stop Han Jingru from obtaining the first place, judging from his abilities.

Chapter 1165

Ad



“To think the Han family has such a powerful fighter. You’re a lucky one, Yang Bin,” Wang Linqi remarked while gritting his teeth.

Wang Li looked especially grim. After all, he had acted so haughtily toward Yang Wanlin right before the tournament started. But now, his own candidate had lost. This was nothing but humiliating.

Wang Li looked toward Yang Wanlin, only to find the latter gazing back at him smugly. He quickly turned away, not wanting to have to deal with Yang Wanlin under such circumstances.

“Let’s go home,” said Wang Linqi as he stood up.

Wang Li quickly followed him closely from behind.

By now, Han Jingru had already left the boxing ring and returned to his seat next to Shi Yan.

Shi Yan didn’t know how to describe her current feelings. Was it excitement? Should she be feeling happy for Han Jingru?

“Nangong Shuxian’s going to regret her decision if she saw this, Jingru.” Shi Yan could cry tears of joy. Han Jingru had suffered so much in the Han family, but he finally had a chance to prove himself now.

Han Jingru smiled faintly. He was doing all this precisely to make Nangong Shuxian realize her mistakes. Even so, he knew that winning this match alone wasn’t going to cut it. Nangong Shuxian was an extremely stubborn old woman, after all.

"You're insane, Jingru. You actually won so easily." Yang Wanlin patted Han Jingru's shoulder with a smile.

"I suppose the Yang family can now start making plans to support Dynasty, right?" Han Jingru remarked. Despite having long reached an agreement, the Yang family had never taken any action so far.

Han Jingru knew it was because the Yangs were waiting to see what he could do for them at the Martial Arts Summit. Now that he had easily won his first match, it was about time the Yangs delivered their promise.

"Don't worry. I'll go home and tell the Patriarch about this at once. We'll start carrying out what we've promised," Yang Wanlin assured.

Then, Han Jingru turned to Wu Xin. The lady was now staring at him like a fangirl with eyes as bright as the stars.

Han Jingru was more than familiar with such a look. Yang Meng and Qi Bingying had also once gazed at him the same way.

"Aren't you going home yet?" he asked Wu Xin.

Wu Xin was well aware of their age gap, but that didn't stop her from liking Han Jingru more and more each day. By now, her heart was beating frantically just from looking at him.

"I'm waiting for you to finish," Wu Xin answered.

"I have other things to take care of later. It won't be convenient with you tagging along." After speaking, Han

Jingru turned to Yang Wanlin. "Could you help send this friend of mine home?"

"Of course," Yang Wanlin answered happily. At this point, Yang Wanlin would readily agree to do anything for Han Jingru, no matter how big or small the request.

Before coming to the Martial Arts Summit, Yang Wanlin had already promised to establish the Yang family's alliance with Han Jingru and grant all of the boy's requests if he were to win this match.

Wu Xin just glanced at Han Jingru, feeling slightly disappointed. She wanted to continue staying with him here, but he was deliberately driving her away.

After Yang Wanlin left with Wu Xin, Shi Yan turned to Han Jingru. "What other matters do you have to take care of later? I think she's a nice girl. She's also older than you. You'll be able to learn a lot from her."

Han Jingru rolled his eyes in frustration. *Is this really what a mother should be saying? I'm only fourteen—I am still a child!*

"Are you that desperate for a daughter-in-law, Mom?"

Shi Yan wasn't particularly insistent on this matter, but she figured that letting Han Jingru be exposed to a little romance wasn't a bad thing. After all, how would a man find out what kind of woman was fitting for him without being involved in a few serious relationships first?

Chapter 1165



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Shi Yan proceeded to give Han Jingru a serious talk about the benefits of dating at a young age, being the complete opposite of a parent who absolutely prohibited teenage relationships. This was likely because she didn't have to worry about Han Jingru's grades being affected.

Yet, Han Jingru disregarded everything Shi Yan told him, for he truly didn't need any more experience in this regard. Besides, he already had a woman. All he was waiting for right now was an opportunity to see Su Yimo in Yun City.

Just as Han Jingru left the Martial Arts Summit, he spotted a bespectacled young lady who seemed so familiar. Even so, the boy felt strange for he was certain he didn't know that girl.

Taking his confusion home with him, Han Jingru couldn't stop thinking about that girl's appearance as though she had been etched into his brain.

Shi Yan saw Han Jingru spaced out on the couch.

"What's wrong? You've been looking unsettled ever since we got home. Did something happen?" she asked.

Han Jingru shook his head. "I saw someone who looked really familiar, Mom, but I can't seem to remember where I've met her. I can even confirm that I don't know her, but why am I feeling this way?"

"Is it because you found her pretty?" Shi Yan asked with a smile. She didn't think Han Jingru would start opening up this quickly after hearing her little pep talk.

Han Jingru cast a helpless glance at Shi Yan. *As if I'd*

think that way. "I'm serious here. Stop making fun of me."

"Then, is there anything unique about her?"

"She was wearing glasses and looked kind of thin. I can't really say there was anything special about her."

"Glasses? Why don't you think back about any girl you know who wears glasses, then? I'm sure that would help narrow down your options."

The suggestion seemed to enlighten Han Jingru, for he immediately recalled someone.

Qi Bingying!

There's no doubt about it. That was Qi Bingying!

It's no wonder that girl looked so familiar. That's because she looked so similar to Qi Bingying. It's like she was a miniature version of her!

Could she have been the younger version of Qi Bingying, then?

Han Jingru's heart began to race inexplicably. Thinking back, Han Jingru still harbored some guilt about Qi Bingying. The woman had helped him a great deal, but he could never return the favor.

Back then, Han Jingru figured that he could only repay Qi Bingying if they were to see each other again in their next lives—or if reincarnation truly existed.

In truth, the fact that Han Jingru thought this way showed that he had developed feelings for Qi Bingying.

Chapter 1166

Ad



Still, he couldn't be blamed for betraying Su Yimo. Anyone who met someone like Qi Bingying would surely feel touched.

After all, the woman had put her entire family's safety at risk to protect Han Jingru. Such an act wasn't something any ordinary person could ever do.

"Have you figured something out?" Shi Yan couldn't help but ask upon seeing Han Jingru's expression turned somber.

Han Jingru nodded. "I've met her before, but I didn't expect to see her here."

"What's she like? How does she look? What about her family background?" Shi Yan instantly began probing, clearly interested in the girl.

Knowing what Shi Yan was thinking, Han Jingru immediately stopped her. "Are you sure you should be instigating your son to start dating, Mom?"

Shi Yan extended an arm and poked Han Jingru's forehead. "What do you mean 'instigate'? I'm doing this for your own good! It's normal these days for kids your age to start dating, isn't it? You can't lose to others."

How is this a competition?

Han Jingru didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Even so, he took Qi Bingying's appearance in Yan City seriously, considering how much she had once helped him. If the Qi family were to be in trouble now, Han Jingru wouldn't hesitate to lend them a hand.

“You should go prepare dinner. I’m going to get some rest.” With that, Han Jingru got up and returned to his room.

It was impossible for a daughter-in-law of an upper-class family to need to be in the kitchen. Even so, Shi Yan had recently fallen in love with cooking, especially when the dishes she made were to Han Jingru’s liking. Nothing else gave Shi Yan such a sense of satisfaction—not even buying a bunch of luxury goods.

Upon returning to his room, Han Jingru took out his phone and dialed Qin Fu’s number.

Qin Fu had also gone to the Martial Arts Summit earlier today and witnessed Han Jingru’s swift victory. The shock he felt was no less than that of everyone else among the audience.

“Hello, Boss,” Qin Fu said carefully. If he had already respected Han Jingru before, he now revered and feared the boy even more.

“Help me look into someone called Qi Donglin. I want to know how he’s doing now.”

Qi Donglin was Qi Bingying’s father. This man had once provided Han Jingru with considerable support when he was in the U.S.

“You’re acquainted with Qi Donglin, Boss?” Qin Fu asked, slightly surprised.

From that, Han Jingru knew there was not much of a need to look the man up. It was evident that Qin Fu knew who he was.

“Is he from Yan City, or is he here because of something else?” Han Jingru went straight to the point.

When they first met, Qi Bingying’s family had already migrated. Hence, Han Jingru knew nothing about their situation prior to migrating.

“I heard he was supposed to work with the Mo family, but they set him up, so he’s here to settle his scores with them. Unfortunately, there’s nothing much he can do, considering the Mo family’s power,” Qin Fu explained. “I’m not completely sure, though. These are just rumors that I’ve heard from others. It sounds like the Qi family is from a different city and was meant to work on a project with the Mo family. But the Mo family turned the project into an empty shell and caused Qi Donglin to go bankrupt. That’s why he is here in Yan City—to demand compensation. Although, he’s pretty much digging his own grave by trying to get even with one of the Three Major Families.”

“The Mo family is one of the Three Major Families?” asked Han Jingru.

“Yes.”

Han Jingru frowned in response. *Looks like Qi Donglin is in some pretty big trouble. It doesn’t matter what the Mo family did to him; there’s no way he’ll be able to get what he wants from them now that he’s in their turf.*

“I want a full account of what happened. I’ll give you one day. Can you do it?”

“Yes. I’ll get right on it,” Qin Fu answered without hesitation.

Chapter 1166



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru had no time to waste thinking about this matter until Qin Fu returned with some news, but he knew that Qi Bingying's family eventually left the country because of this.

Getting into a fight with the Mo family would only put them in danger, so they had no choice but to leave. It was probably their very last option.

Still, they did pretty well after moving, which shows how good Qi Donglin is as a businessman.

Han Jingru couldn't help but ask himself a question. *If I were to remain as a bystander and stay out of the Qi family's matters, will things continue to happen like how they did? Will the Qi family grow even more powerful after leaving the country?*

If that's the case, I can let Qi Donglin take matters into his own hands.

But will history repeat itself perfectly? Han Jingru couldn't be sure anymore. After all, the situation in Yan City was already completely different from before. I've already caused many things to change by being here. For example, the Yangs are clearly at an advantage now, which would naturally alter the fate of the Mo family too.

"I'll try not to meddle with your family affairs as long as you're not in danger. But if anyone ever tries to hurt you, I'll never forgive him," Han Jingru declared calmly.

He seemed to harbor some unusual feelings for Qi Bingying. These weren't feelings of romantic love; rather, Han Jingru was determined to protect Qi Bingying. After all, she had once protected him while in the U.S. Even if

nothing may ever happen between the two in this lifetime, Han Jingru could never stand by and watch her get into trouble.

Not long after, Shi Yan knocked on Han Jingru's door, telling him it was time for dinner.

Meanwhile, it was also dinner time at the Han residence.

Nangong Shuxian sat on her designated seat with a stern look on her face. It was evident that she was extremely displeased.

She had deliberately chosen not to attend the Martial Arts Summit earlier today because she didn't want to see Han Jingru win, but that didn't mean she wouldn't receive the news of his victory.

Nangong Shuxian was already aware of Han Jingru's shocking victory, and she certainly knew how he had won. That was why she was especially unhappy. The elderly woman even suspected that the match had been rigged. *How could a piece of trash like Han Jingru defeat a Wang family candidate?*

"Have you heard of what happened earlier today, Mom?" Han Ying asked carefully. *Jingru has already shown everyone what he's capable of in today's match, and many families are now taking him seriously. This is our last chance to reconcile with him. If we don't grasp this opportunity, we might really lose Jingru forever.*

Considering the slump we're in right now, I'm sure the Han family will rise once again if Jingru comes back to us. Mom won't have to force her ideals on Han Yu anymore then.

Chapter 1167

Ad



Admitting one's mistakes wasn't a big deal. There was no harm in apologizing to Han Jingru for the sake of the family.

But even if Han Ying thought this way, Nangong Shuxian certainly didn't. She was so full of pride that she would never go back on her word. Hence, the old woman wasn't even considering asking Han Jingru to return; instead, she was now thinking of ways to prove that the boy was indeed a piece of trash.

It's just one match. That alone can't prove how powerful Han Jingru actually is. He'll eventually show his true colors.

"So what if I have?" Nangong Shuxian replied blandly.

"I heard that many families are now hoping to work with Jingru. I think this is our last chance."

"Last chance?" Nangong Shuxian smirked coldly as she turned to Han Ying. "What do you mean by that? Are you trying to say that I should apologize to that piece of trash and admit that I've underestimated him?"

Wham!

Han Yu slammed a fist on the dining table and glared at Han Ying with rage. "Are you serious, Dad? You want Grandma to apologize to Han Jingru? What has Grandma ever done wrong?"

Even if the person yelling at Han Ying was his own son, the latter could do nothing with Nangong Shuxian around. It wasn't Han Yu's first time showing little respect toward an elder at home, anyway.

“Let’s not rush things. I already have a plan, and I’ll be getting the help of someone powerful,” Nangong Shuxian replied with a smirk.

“Who is it, Grandma?”

Nangong Shuxian merely smiled in silence. She had already received a response after seeking Nangong Boling’s help. The latter had agreed to help her get rid of Han Jingru as he owed her one, but it was still unknown as to when he would arrive in Yan City.

Even so, since Nangong Boling had promised to help, there was no way he would go back on his word. That was why Nangong Shuxian had nothing to worry about.

An ominous feeling crept into Han Ying’s heart. Considering how Nangong Shuxian had once planned to keep Han Jingru locked up in the dungeon forever, he didn’t know what kinds of crazy ideas she had now. *She might even kill Jingru.*

Han Ying hurriedly finished his dinner and returned to his room. He had to let Shi Yan know about this so that Han Jingru would keep his guard up.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Despite being only fourteen, Han Jingru felt like he was constantly being urged to find a girlfriend. *Shouldn't adults be the ones having to deal with this? Why is this happening to me now?*

Han Jingru couldn't help but wonder if Shi Yan was a normal mother. *What kind of mother would keep pressuring her son to date someone?*

He could only remain silent as Shi Yan rambled on about love when finally, a phone call interrupted her lecture and allowed Han Jingru to finally experience some peace.

Yet, Shi Yan cast him an odd glance after looking at her phone.

"What's wrong?" Han Jingru asked curiously.

"It's your father. We're at odds with each other now, but he's suddenly calling me," Shi Yan replied while rolling her eyes. Ever since she left the Han family, she had rarely been in contact with Han Ying, nor did she want to do that.

At present, Shi Yan didn't care about what was happening in the Han family. Having put all of her thoughts on Han Jingru, all she wanted now was to take good care of him.

"You should answer it. He might have something important to tell you," Han Jingru suggested.

Hearing that, Shi Yan, who had thought of rejecting the call, picked it up and immediately put it on speaker.

Han Jingru was speechless for a moment. *What if he's*

trying to apologize? It'd be awkward if I heard everything. For God's sake, I'm not interested in hearing their cheesy conversations.

"What is it? You have one minute. Get to the point," Shi Yan demanded.

"I just heard Mom mention that she's found a way to deal with Han Jingru. Tell him to be careful," Han Ying responded just as frankly, not wasting a single moment.

Shi Yan instantly furrowed her brows. *Nangong Shuxian should have already found out about Jingru's victory. Is she still not aware of how powerful he is?*

"Is there anything else?" she asked.

"From the sounds of it, Mom seems to have gotten someone powerful to help her out."

With that, Shi Yan immediately ended the call, not wanting to waste another breath on Han Ying.

"Who in Yan City would still dare help the Han family?" Shi Yan asked Han Jingru, with the intention to alert him as well.

Han Jingru pondered for a moment and smiled.

Judging from Yan City's current state, no one would dare involve themselves in such matters. After all, he had the support of the Yang family now. *There's no way any ordinary family would dare interfere. Even the Wang family wouldn't dare work with the Hans, no matter how much they can't wait to watch me fall.*

Hence, the only people Han Jingru could think of was the Nangong family. *Could Nangong Shuxian have asked for Nangong Boling's help?*

In that case, that might actually be a good thing, considering how Grandpa is still in the hands of Nangong Boling. I'd be able to solve this problem even faster if Nangong Boling came to me instead.

Han Jingru had so much to deal with in this new life of his; he couldn't even handle the matters closest to him right now. What more, the Nangong family was far beyond his reach.

But if the Nangong family were to make their way to Han Jingru, that would save him a lot of trouble.

"What are you smiling about?" Shi Yan was perplexed to see Han Jingru break into a smile all of a sudden. *How is he still so happy after learning that Nangong Shuxian has found someone to cause him harm?*

"Nothing. I know who Nangong Shuxian has gotten to take care of me. It's a honestly good news to me," Han Jingru answered.

Shi Yan was even more bewildered now. *Shouldn't this spell trouble instead? Why is he calling it good news? What's going on?*

Even so, she believed in him. *If he says it's good news, I suppose it is.*

"Whatever it is, please be careful. I left the Han family for you, so you're the only one I can depend on now. If anything ever happens to you, I'll have no other choice

Chapter 1168

Ad



but to kill myself and join you.”

“Don’t worry. No one will be able to hurt me.”

Later, Han Jingru returned to his room after dinner.

Figuring that Qin Fu would only be back with more news tomorrow, the boy decided to go straight to sleep.

Despite sleeping being completely pointless to him, Han Jingru couldn’t do anything to change a normal human being’s daily routine. Besides, he didn’t enjoy the nightlife, so there was nothing else he could do other than sleep.

The next morning, Han Jingru received a phone call shortly after he had just opened his eyes. It was from Qin Fu.

Upon answering the call, the man’s hoarse voice came through. “I’ve looked into the matters between the Qi and the Mo families, Boss. Are you free to drop by the office?”

Qin Fu sounded as though he hadn’t slept all night. “I’ll be right there,” said Han Jingru as he sat up and got out of bed.

After washing up, Han Jingru left home without having breakfast.

Qin Fu, who had dark circles underneath his eyes, was already waiting at the entrance when the boy arrived.

“You don’t have to stay up like this the next time. You should rest when it’s time to do that,” he advised Qin Fu.

“There’s no way I can rest until I’ve finished what my boss has asked of me,” Qin Fu responded.

With a smile, Han Jingru patted him on the shoulder.

The two arrived at the office and Qin Fu took out all the information he had obtained from his research. Then, he proceeded to explain some matters in detail as Han Jingru read through everything.

Swindling and using unscrupulous methods were commonplace in the corporate world, and no business was ever completely ethical. Even so, the reason behind this incident was something Han Jingru had not expected at all.

The Mo family had set the Qi family up simply because of Ouyang Fei.

Han Jingru could still remember meeting Ouyang Fei for the first time in the U.S. Despite being in her forties, the woman was a stunning beauty and exuded a mature charm like no other.

Thus, the younger version of her was surely even more attractive, which was why the Mo family had decided to set the Qi family up.

“According to our intel, making the Qi family go bankrupt is exactly what the Mo family wanted so that they could snatch Ouyang Fei from Qi Donglin. Still, this information is yet to be confirmed. There are a lot more to consider,” Qin Fu informed.

Han Jingru smiled. “You can go home now. You don’t have to deal with this matter anymore.”

Whether or not this had something to do with Ouyang Fei, Han Jingru was adamant on finding out the truth himself.

Suddenly, Qin Fu received a phone call, and his expression visibly changed after answering it.

“Qi Donglin has gone to see the Mo family, Boss. Things aren’t looking good,” Qin Fu said to Han Jingru after hanging up.

“He went alone?”

“With his entire family of three.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru started to panic. *I can understand if Qi Donglin goes to the Mo Residence to stir up trouble. After all, he suffered terribly because of them. It's understandable if he loses his temper.*

But I don't understand why he would bring his wife and his daughter along with him. It's too dangerous.

Doesn't he see the difference between him and the Mo family? Charging towards them like this can only result in death.

According to the information, the Mo family could have targeted the Qi family because of Ouyang Fei. Isn't he just giving his wife away?

"I'll take care of this myself. Go and rest. You're on leave today. I don't want to see you in the company for the rest of today." With that, Han Jingru walked out of the office.

After burning the midnight oil, Qin Fu was tuckered out. He was drained both mentally and physically. He initially planned on toughing it out, but Han Jingru's words changed his mind. Now, he had no choice but to go home to rest.

Ignoring the Boss's order would be insubordination, after all.

After leaving Dynasty, Han Jingru intended to go to the Mo residence. *But what reason do I have for showing up?*

The Mo family had substantial influence. On top of that, he was currently not affiliated with the Qi family at all. *I can't use being annoyed as a reason to butt in. It would be too disrespectful towards the Mo family.*

Han Jingru pulled out his phone and called Yang Wanlin.

He was still asleep, but when he saw Han Jingru's name on the caller identification, he was instantly awake.

"Why are you calling me so early, Jingru?" Yang Wanlin asked.

"Are you interested in going to the Mo residence with me?" Han Jingru asked.

Yang Wanlin was stunned. *The Mo residence?*

Could there be bad blood between Han Jingru and the Mo family?

Now that the Yang family and Wang family are at odds, it won't do the Yang family well to provoke the Mo family now.

But it's not going to be easy to reject Han Jingru.

"Wait for me. Let me get changed and wash up." Yang Wanlin hung up.

Instead of going to wash up, Yang Wanlin headed to the villa's backyard.

Usually, Yang Bin would be practicing Taichi at this hour. It was a known rule that he was not to be disturbed during this time.

"Patriarch." Yang Wanlin knew Yang Bin did not like to be bothered at this time, but he had no choice. He needed to give Han Jingru an answer as soon as possible, and to do so he needed Yang Bin's instructions.

"You're getting bolder, Yang Wanlin. How dare you disturb me at this time." Yang Bin's voice dripped with displeasure.

"Patriarch, I have a matter of utmost urgency at hand. Otherwise, I would never even dream of coming to you," Yang Wanlin replied.

Yang Wanlin's anxious expression told Yang Bin that this interruption was not uncalled for. "Tell me. If it's some trivial affair, I'll make sure you regret your actions."

"Han Jingru just called and asked if I was interested in going to the Mo residence with him." Yang Wanlin said.

Yang Bin froze for about thirty seconds. Then, he gathered himself and walked over to Yang Wanlin's side. "Did he say why?" he asked seriously.

"No. I didn't ask. I came to talk to you directly," replied Yang Wanlin.

Yang Bin inhaled sharply. *There's no way Han Jingru is going to the Mo residence to seek a partnership if he's asking Yang Wanlin to go with him.*

This is a bad time to get on the wrong side of the Mo family.

However, a burning excitement had been bubbling within Yang Bin for some time. *It seems impossible to take on both families at once, but who can say what the result will be before we even give it a try?*

Moreover, Han Jingru must be confident if he's willing to do it.

"Just go," Yang Bin said.

"Understood. I'll call him back now." Yang Wanlin rushed off to call Han Jingru.

Han Jingru was no fool. He was well aware that Yang Wanlin was so anxious to hang up not because he wanted to change and wash up, but because he wanted to seek Yang Bin's opinion. The old man had the final say in the Yang family after all. There was no way Yang Wanlin would have the courage to decide on such an important matter on his own.

"I'm ready, Jingru. Where shall we meet?" Yang Wanlin asked.

Han Jingru did not expose Yang Wanlin. He told him the address.

"Do you have any other instructions, Patriarch?" Yang Wanlin asked Yang Bin before he left.

"Be prepared for anything. Han Jingru's decision is the priority. No matter what he decides to do, the Yang family will support him."

"Understood."

Following Yang Bin's departure, Yang Bin was no longer interested in doing Taichi. He sat in the backyard's pavilion and solemnly thought about Han Jingru's reasons for going to the Mo residence.

Song Yun walked up behind Yang Bin and said, "You've never placed such a high stake on someone before. Aren't you betting a bit much this time?"

Offending the two families at once was not favorable for the Yang family. If the two families decided to join forces, the Yang family would be doomed.

"I don't have much time left. If I don't go big, I might not live to see the Yang family surpass the other families," explained Yang Bin.

"The two families do not have a history of working together due to their pride. However, you've given them a prime opportunity this time," Song Yun responded.

Naturally, Yang Bin was aware of this. The reason why no two families of the Three Principal Families had partnered up was because they were all unwilling to compromise. None of them had a valid excuse, which was why the Three Major Families could maintain their haughty demeanor all these years.

"I think Han Jingru is worth trusting. What do you think?" Yang Bin turned to ask Song Yun seriously.

Song Yun smiled faintly. He knew better than Yang Bin about the power of an Apocalypse Platinum rank fighter.

If Han Jingru could not be trusted, who could?

"Of course he's worth it. He definitely possesses the power to cause pandemonium in Yan City," Song Yun said with a smile.

Yang Bin felt assured by Song Yun's words.

"By the way, there are always some representatives from Apocalypse at the annual Martial Arts Summit. Is there any news about them this year?" Yang Bin asked

curiously.

“They will probably join the competition after two rounds. The initial rounds are not worth their time,” Song Yun replied.

Yang Bin nodded grimly. Both he and Song Yun trusted Han Jingru mostly, but nothing was definite. Yang Bin was aware that unless people from Apocalypse came forward to confirm Han Jingru’s identity or he would always come under suspicion.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru just said in a serious tone, "Drive faster."

Yang Wanlin stomped on the gas pedal, ignoring the speed limit.

The journey to the Mo residence took half an hour.

Yang Wanlin parked the car in front of the mansion's large red door. The cameras at the Mo residence's gate immediately picked up on the sudden situation. Ten bodyguards immediately marched out of the yard.

"Parking is prohibited here. Leave now or else I'll start smashing the car," the leader of the group threatened Yang Wanlin.

"My name is Yang Wanlin. Please ask Mo Dafang to come out," drawled Yang Wanlin.

Mo Dafang and Yang Wanlin were of the same age. The two of them used to bump into each other often at the nightclub. He was the member of the Mo family with who Yang Wanlin was most familiar.

The leader of the bodyguards frowned. *Isn't Yang Wanlin the beloved young master of the Yang family? Why did he come to the Mo residence?*

He even called Mo Dafang by name. Could he be here to cause trouble?

If this was the past, he might have relayed the message. But today was an exception, and he had no choice but to reject them.

Chapter 1170

Ad



"He can't see you today. Come back some other time," said the man.

"Hey, who are you to stop me? Do you know who I am?" Yang Wanlin hissed in annoyance.

The Yang family and the Mo family had been rivals for many years. However, neither side had ever openly been rude to each other. As a mere bodyguard, he dared not offend Yang Wanlin. "Mr. Yang, the Mo family is really unable to receive guests today. Please leave now and I will let Mr. Mo know that you came to see him. I am sure he will contact you."

"Shut up. I'm not leaving. What can you do to me? Bring Mo Dafang to me now." Yang Wanlin plastered a look of blazing arrogance on his face. Having been born with a silver spoon, he did not need to put on any act. He could be as cocky as he desired.

If he were faced with anyone else, the Head of Security would have forcefully chased them out. But this was Yang Wanlin. He could not act rashly. After a moment's consideration, he ordered his subordinates, "Go inform Mr. Mo that someone from the Yang family is here to cause trouble. Let him decide how to deal with this."

"Yes, sir." The subordinate rushed off to carry out the instruction.

Yang Wanlin whispered a reminder to Han Jingru, "Jingru, the head of the Mo family is not a man to be trifled with. Are you sure you want to go in?"

Han Jingru nodded. He knew the background of the head of the Mo family well. During the eighties, he was on the

wrong side of the law but held an impressive amount of power. He had thousands of people under him and practically controlled Yan City. After many attempts at clearing his ledger, he finally became a legitimate businessman. However, he would always be an outlaw at heart. The Mo family's security team all had a history of clashing with law enforcement as well.

Entering the Mo residence was the equivalent of entering the lion's den. It would take immense courage for ordinary people to step in because there was a chance that they would never walk out.

On the other hand, Han Jingru had no issue. Even if there were a million people inside, it would not bother him.

"You can leave first if you're scared." Han Jingru muttered.

Yang Wanlin was feeling slightly ashamed. Striking a deal with the head of the Mo family would be like making a deal with the devil. One wrong move could spell his death.

But since he was with Han Jingru, Yang Wanlin would have to do his best to put on a brave face.

"Why should I be scared? If things take a turn for the worse, I have you to protect me," Yang Wanlin said with mock indifference.

Han Jingru did not know how to react. This guy *sure knows his limits. He knows that he's weak and needs to seek protection.*

Soon, the subordinate came back and told to the Head of

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“Han Jingru.”

Han Jingru strolled in after declaring his name.

Yang Wanlin quickly trailed behind him.

The Head of Security continued to stare at Han Jingru’s back in astonishment.

Han Jingru was a household name in Yan City now.

He had been pushed to the top of the trending topic list by the Yang family. Moreover, everyone in Yan City knew about his victory over the Wang family at the Martial Arts Summit.

Some people suspected that his abilities had been exaggerated and did not believe them to be true. The Head of Security used to be one of those people. But, after he experienced Han Jingru’s might first hand, he finally understood that the rumors had been true. Not only did Han Jingru take out ten people with ease, but he did also not even give them the chance to retaliate.

“Sir, this kid is crazy!” one of the subordinates choked out through gritted teeth.

The Head of Security smiled wryly and said, “We just fought Han Jingru, after all. He’s no ordinary human.”

As they walked into the yard of the Mo residence, Han Jingru was unfamiliar with the place and could not figure out where Qi Donglin and the rest were. He was extremely vexed until he heard a voice call out.

“What are you doing here, Yang Wanlin?” The voice

belonged to Mo Dafang, who looked terribly stunned to see him.

“Long time no see, Mo Dafang,” Yang Wanlin greeted him with a smile.

Mo Dafang’s expression darkened as he said, “I suggest you leave now. You shouldn’t be here today.”

Yang Wanlin shot Mo Dafang a look. “I came to see my friends. Where are they?”

“Have you gone mad, Yang Wanlin? How could you have friends in the Mo family?” Mo Dafang stared blankly at Yang Wanlin.

“Qi Donglin,” Han Jingru said.

Qi Donglin!

Isn't that the family who came to create trouble today?

Qi Donglin is barely alive now. Is Yang Wanlin here to claim his body?

“Who is this kid, Yang Wanlin?” asked Mo Dafang.

“It’s none of your business. Tell me where Qi Donglin is,” snapped Yang Wanlin.

Mo Dafang smirked coldly. *Old Master Mo has already made the final decision regarding the Qi family. Although I'm not certain of the details, it doesn't take a genius to know that Qi Donglin is doomed. It's a coin toss if he'll even be able to walk out of here alive today.*

"Listen to my advice, Yang Wanlin. Go back to where you came from. You have no say in this matter. The Old Master is not in a good mood today. He won't take kindly to visitors, no matter who you are," replied Mo Dafang.

Han Jingru frowned. This was what he was worried about. *My appearance broke the balance between the Three Principal Families. History will definitely be changed. Qi Donglin was supposed to be able to make a comeback. But now, I'm not sure if he'll be so lucky.*

"I'll ask you one more time. Where is Qi Donglin." Han Jingru asked in a cold tone.

"Hey, you little brat. How dare..."

Mo Dafang had not finished speaking when the air before him seemed to shift and Han Jingru abruptly materialized before him.

Mo Dafang was petrified. He trembled and took two steps back.

"Damn. What the hell is going on?" Mo Dafang instinctively swore.

Han Jingru reached out his right hand and tightly gripped Mo Dafang's shirt collar. "Tell me where Qi Donglin is."

Mo Dafang was still unaware of the danger he was in. "Yang Wanlin, who is this? How dare he cause trouble in the Mo family territory? Does he actually want to die?" Mo Dafang said to Yang Wanlin.

It would have worked if he had said this to anyone else. It would have terrified his target.

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“Continue walking straight down this path.”

Han Jingru tossed Mo Dafang aside and headed towards the route he had pointed out.

When Yang Wanlin walked past Mo Dafang, he asked with mock concern, “Are you okay? I tried to warn you, but you just won’t listen.”

Mo Dafang gnashed his teeth together. *This bastard is clearly mocking me.*

“Wipe that smile off your face, Yang Wanlin. This is the Mo residence. Do you really think you’ll be able to leave here unscathed?” Mo Dafang growled.

Yang Wanlin chuckled. *If I’m on my own, there’s no way I could leave in one piece. Even if I’m alone, I wouldn’t have come here.*

But I have Han Jingru with me, so I have absolutely nothing to worry about.

Legend has it that the Mo family has many fighters. Mr. Mo used to associate himself with the most powerful people. But how could they compete with Han Jingru?

Yang Wanlin had absolute confidence in Han Jingru. When it came to a physical confrontation, Yang Wanlin guaranteed that no one in Yan City was Han Jingru’s match.

Frankly, Yang Wanlin had underestimated Han Jingru. No one on this planet was his match.

Han Jingru made a beeline for the backyard. He finally

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found who he came to see under a round archway.

Qi Donglin was sprawled on the floor, his face scrunched up in agony. He looked like he was barely clinging to life. Meanwhile, Qi Bingying's eyes were red, and tears welled up in the corner of her eyes. She was clearly trying not to cry.

Rage exploded within Han Jingru. He was ready to throw hands.



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Han Jingru's expression was glum as he marched into the backyard.

Mr. Mo was immediately displeased when he caught sight of the uninvited guests.

"What's going on? How dare an outsider strut into the Mo residence?" Mr. Mo asked the people beside him.

His subordinates were visibly terrified as they scrambled to say, "Mr. Mo, he won't be leaving here alive since he came uninvited."

"Don't dirty my garden," said Mr. Mo who was clearly ready to take Han Jingru's life.

The subordinates nodded and walked towards Han Jingru.

He assumed it would be easy to take down the child.

When Yang Wanlin appeared behind Han Jingru. Mr. Mo called out to his subordinates to stop. He furrowed his brow.

Isn't that Yang Wanlin? He actually barged in here. This child must be...

Mr. Mo did not participate in the Martial Arts Summit's preliminaries. A bigshot like him saw no need to join the fray. He would only appear at important moments, which was why he was not familiar with Han Jingru.

Mr. Mo deduced that this child could very well be the Han Jingru that had captured Yan City's attention.

"Yan Wanlin, what do you mean by this?" Mr. Mo asked.

Yang Wanlin was slightly afraid to approach someone like Mr. Mo, who was one of the most influential people out there. He also had an extremely unscrupulous background.

But I've made it this far. I can't let Mr. Mo see me as a coward.

"My apologies, Mr. Mo. This friend of mine is not acquainted with etiquette, which is why he barged in like this. I hope you'll understand," Yang Wanlin said.

The corner of Mr. Mo's lip curled upwards malevolently. *You're actually bringing up etiquette after charging in like this?*

"Is he... Han Jingru?" asked Mr. Mo.

"Yes." Yan City smiled and nodded. *It looks like Han Jingru's reputation has swept through Yan City. even Mr. Mo knows of him.*

"I was surprised to hear that someone so young performed so well at the Martial Arts Summit. However, barging into the Mo residence is a whole different issue."

Qi Bingying turned to look at Han Jingru. She had seen his performance in the ring at the Martial Arts Summit. The memory was etched deeply into her mind. But she could not understand why he would show up at such a time.

Han Jingru met Qi Bingying's gaze. The young girl was already showing signs of beauty. Although her glasses

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evidence of Han Jingru's overwhelming might.

"Die!" Han Jingru shrieked.

A flash of terror streaked across Mr. Mo's eyes. This subordinate had been by his side for over a decade. Mr. Mo was well aware of the power he possessed. There were only about two people in Yan City who could take him on. Yet, Han Jingru had finished him off in one strike. He was lying there limply, looking as though he was dead!

This brat is savage! How strong is he?

Yang Wanlin was struck with terror as he watched the scene unfold. He never imagined that Han Jingru would kill one of the Mo family's people. *Is he declaring war on the Mo family?*

Yang Wanlin gulped and took a deep breath in an attempt to compose himself.

He did not dare to imagine how the day would end. All he knew was that Han Jingru had well and truly riled up Mr. Mo.

"Who is next?" Han Jingru asked Mr. Mo.

Despite his hatred, Mr. Mo discovered from Han Jingru's one strike that it would not be easy for the Mo family to find someone who could take him on. Moreover, Mr. Mo did not have any masters from the Martial Arts Hall on hand. It would not do him well to clash against Han Jingru now.

"Han Jingru. Are you aware that I have the ability to

slowly squeeze the life out of the Han family?" Mr. Mo threatened.

"I would be more than grateful to you if you do so," Han Jingru said, grinning.

Mr. Mo finally understood. *Han Jingru has always been called the Han family's trash. Judging from his demeanor, he must have cut ties with the Han family. Using them to threaten him is ludicrous.*

"What do you want?" Mr. Mo asked. Since he could not fight Han Jingru, he could only try to make a deal with him. This did not mean he was willing to compromise. Given his personality, he was surely going to see Han Jingru after this.

"He's my friend. The Mo family has to give him back everything they took from him," Han Jingru said after glancing at Qi Donglin.

Mr. Mo smirked. His plan to use the Qi family did not only stop claiming their inheritance but also to take control of all their financial connections in the city. Now that the plan was complete, and that the Mo family had been drained of a significant amount of resources, there was no way he could return everything to them.

There were rumors that the Mo family had gone after the Qi family because of a woman. That was simply a joke. There were plenty of women in the world. In the eyes of a businessman, money was king. Who would invest so much effort just for one woman?

"Han Jingru, you don't understand how complex this issue is. You've also underestimated me." Mr. Mo said.

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“Really? Let me see what more there is to you.” Han Jingru started to march towards Mo Yanshang.

He started to panic.

Yang Wanlin was also gripped by fright. If Han Jingru kills Mo Yanshang, everything is going to blow out of control!



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The temperature in the air seemed to drop instantly. Everyone turned to stare at Han Jingru, wondering what was going to happen next. After all, Mo Yansheng was the head of the Mo Family—the most important person in the Three Principal Families of Yan City!

Didn't that make Han Jingru tremble a little?

Mo Yansheng's breathing became more erratic. He had been involved in the business world for years and was born into a family of gangsters—naturally, there were very few things in the world that could make him feel afraid.

For some reason, fear gripped him now. Even Mo Yansheng himself felt a little chagrined—how could he be so afraid when the person he was up against was nothing more than a young punk!

“Han Jingru, don't go overboard,” Mo Yansheng warned, gritting his teeth.

Han Jingru ignored him. He slowed down on purpose and gazed directly at Mo Yansheng. Dragging out the time would only increase the amount of pressure in Mo Yansheng's heart.

Although Qi Bingying was younger than Han Jingru, she had always been more mature than her age. This was how she learned to use her wit to her advantage at a very young age. She had stayed behind by herself after her parents left the country, but she was careful to hide her identity from the people around her. Even her closest friends were clueless about her family background.

At that moment, Qi Bingying was looking at Han Jingru

with fascination. Young as she was, a rather preposterous idea popped in her head.

Since she was going to be married off in the future anyway, shouldn't she strive to get married to a guy like him?

"You don't have many chances left," Han Jingru said blandly.

Mo Yanshang clenched his fists so hard that they were trembling. He had never imagined that he would be threatened by a little boy. Worse still, he felt frightened in front of him, and he was completely helpless in resolving this situation.

Should I try and negotiate with Han Jingru?

But if word got out that I have to negotiate my way out of a fight with a little boy, the Mo family would become the laughing stock of the entire city.

Mo Yanshang was someone who valued his pride very much. He would never condescend to do something like that.

At that moment, a huge crowd of people descended upon the backyard.

When he saw those people, Mo Yanshang let out a quiet sigh of relief.

He turned to the Head of Security and castigated him fiercely. "You bunch of idiots! Are you incapable of guarding these grounds properly? How dare you let this kid barge into the house?"

The Head of Security hung his head, feeling extremely wronged. If they could've stopped Han Jingru, they would never have allowed him into the house in the first place.

However, Han Jingru had thrown all of them onto the ground mercilessly. If he hadn't been worried for Mo Yanshang's safety, the Head of Security wouldn't have endured the pain in his body and staggered to the backyard.

"Mr. Mo, I've already notified the people at the boxing arena. They're on their way now," the Head of Security said.

Mo Yanshang was so furious that he wanted to seal up the Head of Security's mouth. How could he be so foolish to say something like this in front of Han Jingru? The Head of Security was underestimating the young boy's abilities—what if the boy tried to sneak an attack before the people from the boxing arena arrived?

To his surprise, however, Han Jingru stopped in his tracks at the mention of the boxing arena.

"I'll make you admit defeat one day." With that, Han Jingru turned and started walking towards Qi Bingying.

Although she was still a young girl, Qi Bingying already showed signs of becoming a great beauty one day. Unfortunately, her huge glasses, with their thick black frame, hid much of her beauty.

"Are you alright?" Han Jingru asked her gently.

He had rejected this woman numerous times before, but that didn't mean he had no feelings for her. After all, this

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Qi Donglin tried to smile, but the pain in his body made it look like a grimace instead. He didn't know what would happen to them, but as far as he was concerned, today's events would have turned out badly for him if Han Jingru hadn't arrived. He might even have lost his life.

A short while later, the people from the boxing arena, which was under the Mo family's jurisdiction, arrived in the Mo family's backyard.

There were three of them. Two of them were huge and muscly—evidently, most of their arrogance came from their physical prowess. Another man hovered behind them—this one was skinnier and much shorter than his counterparts, and he was so gangly that there was barely any muscle on his body. Next to his friends, he looked so weak that a gust of wind could've knocked him over.

However, Han Jingru could sense that the skinny guy was the most powerful one out of the three.

"Go and take care of your father," Han Jingru said to Qi Bingying. It would be better for her to keep some distance away if a fight broke out.

As Qi Bingying made a beeline for her father, Han Jingru turned to look directly at Mr. Skinny Guy.

"Your friends' muscles are just for show, aren't they? Since you're the strongest one out of the three of you, I'll start with you first," Han Jingru said.

A hint of panic appeared in Mr. Skinny Guy's eyes. Because of his distinct lack of muscles, nobody could usually tell that he was the most powerful one. However, Han Jingru had seen through him so easily—this was

something Mr. Skinny Guy hadn't anticipated.

Coldly, he replied, "Han Jingru, I've heard all about your spectacular performance at the Martial Arts Summit. However, that doesn't mean you can throw your weight around in the Mo residence. Don't you think you're underestimating the Mo family?"

"The Martial Arts Summit?" Han Jingru burst into laughter. "You think that was the best I can do, don't you? Sadly, that was just a quick little warmup for me. Before I even started, that piece of rubbish had already crumpled onto the floor."

Just a quick little warmup?

That Mr. Skinny Guy frowned. *This guy is sure better at bragging than he is at fighting.*

However, if he were really telling the truth, he would be a very formidable fighter indeed.

Everyone in the martial arts world had different opinions on Han Jingru's performance at the Martial Arts Summit. However, most of them were of the opinion that he had shocked his opponent by using all of his powers at once. This had caused his opponent to lose focus and suffer a terrible defeat, making Han Jingru's victory seem more awesome than it really was.

Most of them also felt that Han Jingru's performance at the Martial Arts Summit was the best one he could put up. Since he had nothing left to show, there was no need to be afraid of him.

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In fact, that wasn't the best Han Jingru could do. Once Qilin woke up from his coma, he would shock the whole world with his true powers.

He couldn't help but feel contemptuous of the fighters he had seen here on Earth. All of them were so weak that he could take them out in one breath.

"Do you really think I displayed my peak performance yesterday?" Han Jingru asked, smiling.

That was exactly what Mr. Skinny Guy was thinking. In fact, that was an opinion that most people in Yan City's martial arts scene held.

However, seeing the smug smile on Han Jingru's face, the three men started to suspect that they were completely wrong about him.

However...Han Jingru was no older than fourteen years old. How powerful could he really be?

Becoming a martial arts warrior was no easy task. Aside from natural talent, one also needed a very long time to develop their skills. This meant that becoming a true master before one came of age was practically impossible.

"Today is a good opportunity for me to find out what your true abilities are, then." With that, Mr. Skinny Guy shot a look at his two beefy counterparts. Since Han Jingru had already discovered that he was the most powerful one of the three, there was no need to waste any more time by involving the other two.

"My true abilities?" Han Jingru said with a sneer. He

smiled and continued mockingly, "Will you be able to handle it?"

Mr. Skinny Guy gritted his teeth, feeling rather infuriated. He squatted slightly and assumed an aggressive fighting stance.

Han Jingru placed his hands behind his back and said calmly, "I'll give you one chance. If you manage to touch me, I'll admit defeat."

"Han Jingru, you're too much!" Mr. Skinny Guy roared. He stomped his feet on the ground, shattering the stone pavement beneath him.

Seeing this, Mo Yanshang burst into laughter. This skinny guy was the least formidable-looking person in the boxing arena, but he happened to be the best fighter out of everyone. He had defeated countless fighters in battle. Seeing the relaxed stance Han Jingru had assumed, Mo Yanshang was certain that the skinny guy would be able to take him down instantly.

Mo Yanshang wasn't afraid of the trouble Han Jingru might cause if he died in the Mo residence. To him, the Han family was nothing but a small, insignificant clan. Hence, even if Han Jingru died in the Mo residence, the Han family would never dare to come here and make trouble.

Besides, Han Jingru had left the Han family a long time ago. There was no real need for Mo Yanshang to worry about this.

Time seemed to freeze as the skinny guy thrust his fist at Han Jingru's face.

Han Jingru nodded approvingly. This guy's powers were quite extraordinary—if he had to judge them according to the Apocalypse's standards, this guy would have already reached the Gold rank. It was very difficult for someone from the mundane world to attain such a rank.

Sadly, even warriors of the Gold rank were nothing to Han Jingru. In fact, he could beat Platinum rank warriors very easily in a fight, too.

Han Jingru ducked at the last minute, and the fist went whizzing over his head.

Everyone thought the die was cast when he challenged the men from the boxing arena to a fight, but Han Jingru seemed uninjured.

The skinny guy's heart skipped a beat. It would have taken more than extraordinary good luck for Han Jingru to duck at the last minute—he had probably done it on purpose.

This meant that Han Jingru's abilities were far beyond his own.

Suddenly, he heard Han Jingru say, "Well, let's continue." Mr. Skinny Guy felt another rush of anger surge through his body.

"You must be tired of living!" he roared angrily.

With that, he lunged towards Han Jingru again. This time, he made sure to move as quickly as he could and to pack as much power in his punch as possible.

Everyone else who was watching could tell that it would

be practically impossible to avoid getting hit by his fist—it was moving through the air way too quickly.

However, Han Jingru could see the exact path his fist was taking and successfully predict where his punch was going to land.

“Slow! Too slow!” Han Jingru muttered, shaking his head in slight disappointment.

Back in Xenos, Han Jingru had met quite a few fighters who gave him a good run for his money. However, it was impossible for that sort of fighter to exist on Earth.

When he heard Han Jingru’s criticism, Mr. Skinny Guy’s face turned purple with rage.

The speed of his punches was considered one of the fastest in Yan City—everyone gave it to him for that. However, in Han Jingru’s eyes, his fist had swung too slowly! This made Mr. Skinny Guy feel very embarrassed indeed. After all, there was some truth to Han Jingru’s words—he was always able to duck swiftly before Mr. Skinny Guy’s fist made contact with his head.

Mo Yanshang’s smug expression had vanished from his face. He frowned as he looked on at the scene. He knew how powerful this skinny fighter of his was—every time they sparred, Mr. Skinny Guy always got the upper hand in a matter of minutes, ending the round with a swift victory.

However, Han Jingru hadn’t even moved a muscle, and Mr. Skinny Guy was already at a disadvantage. He hadn’t even managed to damage a single hair on Han Jingru! Mo Yanshang started to sweat as he realized what this

meant.

“How is this possible? How could a boy from the Han family be so powerful?” Mo Yanshang found it impossible to believe that the Han family would mock the abilities of such a talented young man.

Was this some sort of trick the Han family was playing?

After Mr. Skinny Guy tried in vain to land a punch on him a few more times, Han Jingru yawned and said, “If there’s nothing else you want to show us, it’s payback time for me!”

Mr. Skinny Guy’s humiliation gave way to anger. His plans had been completely foiled, and now it seemed that he had shot himself in the foot.

Han Jingru sighed helplessly. Going up against an opponent as weak as Mr. Skinny Guy was truly a waste of his time.

Calmly, he said, “Let’s end this.” In a flash, he disappeared from his spot and appeared again right behind Mr. Skinny Guy.

He grabbed hold of Mr. Skinny Guy and hoisted him into the air by his collar.

Han Jingru had managed to lift Mr. Skinny Guy up with only the strength of one hand!

He then kicked off the ground with both his legs and launched himself into the air. Before Mr. Skinny Guy had landed on the ground, Han Jingru threw a punch straight at his spine.

When he heard the sickening thud as Han Jingru's fist made contact with his spine, an expression of despair appeared on Mr. Skinny Guy's face.

That punch alone would have broken his spine completely. He was facing the possibility of spending the rest of his life in a wheelchair.

Bang!

Mr. Skinny Guy fell back onto the ground, sending clouds of dust to swirl up in the air.

He didn't cry or scream in pain, but his expression was full of misery.

Han Jingru turned to Mo Yanshang and asked, "Mo Yanshang, do you still have any assistants I can have a go at?"

Fear set into Mo Yanshang immediately. He couldn't deny it anymore—the boy before him inspired terror in him. However, this boy wasn't an ordinary boy at all! He had managed to defeat Mo Yanshang's strongest and most powerful lieutenant.

Mo Yanshang took a deep breath and asked, "Han Jingru, what the hell do you want?" He had to do something before Han Jingru ended his life, too. If he landed a punch of his frail, aging body, he could quite possibly die from the impact.

"You will return everything you've taken from the Qi family, down to the tiniest grain of salt. How long do you need?" Han Jingru asked.

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This made Mo Yanshang feel rather depressed. He had already faced so many consequences in order to put his plans into action—if he had to give everything back to the Qi family at this juncture, it would mean that all his earlier efforts would have gone to waste. However, Han Jingru was practically twisting his arm—how could Mo Yanshang not obey his order?

Before he found a way to defeat Han Jingru, he could only pretend to go along with his wishes.



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“One week, I suppose,” Mo Yanshang replied stiffly.

Although he had been forced to say this, Yang Wanlin, who was standing by the side, felt extremely shocked by his words.

If Yang Bin found out about this, he would probably be stunned as well.

This was Mo Yanshang they were talking about! He was renowned for his ferocity and grit in Yan City—no one had ever heard him negotiate with anyone before.

“Alright, then. You can take this one week to think about how you can defeat me, or you can choose to obey me and return the Qi family’s possessions to them. However, I must warn you that the first choice will be a very painful one. If you don’t fulfil your promise to me by the time one week is up, I’ll make sure the name of the Mo family is eradicated from Yan City.”

Mo Yanshang was frowning so hard that sweat was gathering in his wrinkles. He had lived in Yan City for so many years, but nobody had ever dared to speak to him like that.

Eradicating the entire Mo family? Anyone who heard that would think Han Jingru was joking.

Han Jingru walked over to Qi Bingying and said, “Let’s go. If he goes back on his word, I’ll make sure he pays the price for it.”

Qi Bingying nodded her head, and they all left the Mo residence hurriedly.

When they reached the gates of the Mo residence, Han Jingru turned to Yang Wanlin and said, "Find somewhere safe for them to live at temporarily. It'll be best if the location is relatively deserted, too."

Han Jingru wasn't sure what Mo Yanshang would do in the week that followed. Hence, he needed to ensure the safety of this family and make sure no harm would come their way.

"Jingru, leave it to me! Don't worry, I'll make sure nothing happens to them," Yang Wanlin said, patting himself confidently on the chest. Now that he had seen for himself how powerful Han Jingru was, Yang Wanlin was more inclined than ever to treat his words as gospel. He was sure that Yang Bin would do the same.

Before she got into the car, Qi Bingying turned to Han Jingru and asked, "When can I see you again?"

"We're friends now, aren't we? I'm sure there'll be many more opportunities for us to meet again in the future," Han Jingru replied.

Qi Bingying nodded and finally got into the car.

Qi Donglin's injuries were rather severe. However, after some time, he finally showed signs of recovery.

He was still rather confused as to why Han Jingru had showed up and rendered assistance to them. After all, he wasn't a relative or close friend of Han Jingru—there was no reason for the boy to speak up for him and risk offending the entire Mo family.

"Bingying, do you know him?" Qi Donglin could tell that

Han Jingru had paid much attention to his daughter just now. Hence, he suspected that the reason behind Han Jingru's decision to help them was somehow related to Qi Bingying.

Qi Bingying shook her head. She had never met Han Jingru before. However, like he had said, there was a reason behind his actions. He just couldn't let her know yet.

"Dad, I think he can be trusted," Qi Bingying said.

Qi Donglin nodded his head. He didn't particularly care what Han Jingru's reasons were—as long as he was trustworthy and didn't do anything to harm Qi Bingying, Qi Donglin felt compelled to leave him to his own devices.

"Our family got very lucky this time. If he hadn't come to our rescue, I wonder what might have happened to us." Qi Donglin sighed again as he silently thanked Han Jingru for showing up in the nick of time. Otherwise, Qi Bingying and Ouyang Fei would have been implicated by his reckless act.

At the same time, he couldn't help marveling at Han Jingru's power. Even Mo Yanshang had to defer to him.

However, there was something he still couldn't put his finger on. Since Han Jingru was so powerful and talented, why would people mock him for being a useless piece of trash?

Yang Wanlin had a secret base of his own where he usually held his crazy parties. As the Young Master of a wealthy family, it was unavoidable that he privately

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Ad



Yang Bin knew who Mr. Skinny Guy was—he had once helped the Mo family win the Martial Arts Summit championship, and was considered the real top-class fighter in Yan City. However, he had been defeated by Han Jingru today, and even had his spine broken.

More importantly, Yang Bin never expected that Mo Yanshang would concede to Han Jingru's request.

"Patriarch, guess what Han Jingru said before he left the Mo residence," Yang Wanlin said.

Yang Bin shook his head exasperatedly. The events he had heard were shocking enough as they were. Besides, no one could ever predict what Han Jingru's next step would be—how was he supposed to guess what he had said.

"He vowed to eradicate the Mo family if Mo Yanshang didn't fulfil his promise in a weeks' time! He even said that to Mo Yanshang's face," Yang Wanlin said.

Yang Bin had seen much of life, and could already be considered an experienced fighter. When he heard this, however, he couldn't help but suck in a deep breath.

Had Han Jingru really said that to Mo Yanshang's face? How much courage did he have?

However, Han Jingru did, in fact, have the right to say something like that.

"I never expected that that old bugger, Mo Yanshang, would have to experience such a shock in his golden years! That makes me quite happy," Yang Bin said, laughing heartily.

Yang Bin was celebrating deep inside, too. Silently, he congratulated himself for having made friends with Han Jingru early on. If someone else had done so before him, the Yang family might have suffered quite badly at the hands of the Mo family, too.

Suddenly, Yang Bin's expression changed. He turned to Yang Wanlin and asked, "How are things going with Dynasty? Has the Yang family given him enough assistance?"

"Patriarch, didn't you say that we'll take things one step at a time? We should give Han Jingru some time to prove himself," Yang Wanlin said, feeling rather puzzled.

That was what Yang Bin's plans had been before this. However, Yang Wanlin's words had reminded him of something.

Han Jingru had ordered the Mo family to fulfil its promise to him within a week. The promise was one that the Mo family had drawn up themselves.

The Yang family had promised to fulfil its promise to Han Jingru within three months. If they moved too slowly and caused Han Jingru to become impatient, the Yang family might have to face consequences that even Yang Bin didn't dare to imagine.

"We should speed up the process a little. Find a way to reduce the timeframe a little. Although Han Jingru's warning was addressed to Mo Yanshang, it was also a timely reminder for us not to take him lightly. That was a deliberate display of power on his part," Yang Bin said seriously.

Chapter 1175



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just a merchant family after all.

However, Apocalypse was an organization that soared high over the mundane world—even the Mo family could never dream of matching up to their powers. Hence, no matter how preposterous he sounded, Han Jingru's words still held their own weight.

When he saw Yang Bin nod his head, Yang Wanlin could already guess at the older man's attitude towards this entire affair. With that, he drew a deep, shuddering breath. If the Patriarch himself believed it, then Han Jingru definitely had the power to defeat the entire Mo family.

A sudden idea popped into Yang Wanlin's mind.

Since Han Jingru had the power to eradicate the Mo family, Yang Wanlin decided to take advantage of this opportunity and help his friend destroy this long-time rival of the Yang family.

"Patriarch, if Han Jingru truly has that ability, why don't we do something to the Qi family? That way, the Mo family won't be able to fulfil their promise to him," Yang Wanlin suggested.

Whatever idea passed through Yang Wanlin's mind, Yang Bin, the old fox, would have already thought of it. However, he didn't dare to do something so daring. If they took advantage of Han Jingru like this, the Yang family would suffer dire consequences if he ever found out about it.

Although Han Jingru was only fourteen years old, Yang Bin had never thought of him as a young boy. His powers

and the depth of his thoughts were far beyond that of any ordinary child.

Hence, Yang Bin knew they had to proceed with caution. They dare not try to pull any tricks on Han Jingru.

“Have you considered what consequences there might be if he found out about our involvement?” Yang Bin asked sternly.

Yang Wanlin had seen Han Jingru barge into the Mo family with his own eyes. Although he didn't know what sort of relationship Han Jingru had with the Qi family, Yang Wanlin could tell that they were very dear to him. This meant that the Qi family's safety, and therefore the Mo family's promise not to hurt them, was of utmost importance to him.

Han Jingru had even ordered the Mo family to return whatever they had stolen from the Qi family. If he found out that the Yang family had been playing him for a fool, Han Jingru might retaliate very fiercely.

“Patriarch, I understand what you mean now. I didn't think it through enough,” Yang Wanlin said, sweating profusely. His view on the matter had been overly simplistic—he thought that he should take advantage of Han Jingru to destroy the Mo family once and for all, but it turned out to be too risky a move. Han Jingru's relationship with the Yang family was developing well, and the Yang family needed this ally for future dealings. They couldn't risk offending him at this juncture.

“If there's nothing else, you may leave,” Yang Bin said.

Yang Wanlin nodded and left the study room.

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Ad



After Yang Wanlin left, Song Yun, who had been standing behind Yang Bin the whole time, finally spoke up. “You felt tempted, didn’t you?”

Yang Bin sighed deeply and replied, “Of course, I was tempted—it would have been a very good opportunity to defeat the Mo family! I have fought with Mo Yanshang for over ten years. If I could destroy his entire family completely, I would jump at the opportunity immediately.”

“But you know exactly what Han Jingru wants. If the Yang family involves itself in this matter, it would only make him very displeased,” Song Yun reminded him. He couldn’t help himself—he had to make sure Yang Bin understood the pros and cons of his decision thoroughly. If Yang Bin messed up the Yang family’s relationship with Han Jingru because of this reckless mistake, it would be simply disastrous.

Yang Bin nodded and replied, “I know. That’s why I rejected that proposal.”

Here, he paused and continued, “I wish there was a way we could achieve both things—destroy the Mo family, and steer clear of offending Han Jingru.”

Without hesitating, Song Yun replied, “Han Jingru’s demands are very simple. He wants the Mo family to return everything they’ve taken from the Qi family—note his use of the word ‘return’ rather than ‘give’ or ‘donate’. If you try anything with the Qi family, Han Jingru might think you’re trying to mock him.”

Yang Bin sighed helplessly. “Must we really sit and watch this opportunity pass us by? This makes me annoyed.”

“As long as we maintain our relationship with Han Jingru, the Yang family will rise above the other two families one day. Patience is what need now,” Song Yun said.

Yang Bin understood what he was trying to say. However, it had taken over ten years for such a good opportunity to land in his lap. How could Yang Bin give it up so easily?

However, after thinking through the pros and cons of each decision, Yang Bin decided not to take any action. He knew how important it was for the Yang family to keep an ally like Han Jingru around. They stood to lose a lot of things if Han Jingru became an enemy instead.

Meanwhile, at the Han residence, Nangong Shuxian welcomed her guest from the Nangong family, whom she had enlisted to help her.

Of course, Nangong Boling wasn't someone who ventured out of his house for trivial matters. Instead, he had sent his trusted aide over to the Han residence. This was a sign of respect for Nangong Shuxian.

“What can I do for you?” Zhong Changqiu asked.

To Nangong Shuxian, killing Han Jingru sounded like the best plan. However, she couldn't do that now. Han Jingru had already established a reputation for himself among Yan City's upper class circles. She needed his connections and influence in order to take the Han family to greater heights.

Hence, Han Jingru couldn't die now.

“I want to capture Han Jingru,” she replied simply.

Zhong Changqiu frowned with dissatisfaction. "You made me come all the way here just for a small matter like this?"

This would have been a small matter in the past, of course. However, Nangong Shuxian had no way of defeating Han Jingru anymore. Even Yan Qiong could no longer hold a candle to him. This was why Nangong Shuxian was seeking help from Nangong Boling now.

"He's a very strong fighter. You shouldn't underestimate him," Nangong Shuxian said.

Zhong Changqiu laughed in disbelief. He knew about the Han family's situation, and he was aware that Han Jingru was only a little boy.

Since he was just a little boy, how great of a fighter can he be?



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There were reasons for Zhong Changqiu to look down on Han Jingru. Other than the fact that Han Jingru was young, he was a powerful man himself.

Every location in the Nangong family's house that was similar to Terra Prison was managed by Zhong Changqiu. That itself was more than enough to show how great a man he was.

"Stop wasting my time and start moving," Zhong Changqiu commanded.

Nangong Shuxian nodded confidently.

As he was someone from the Nangong family, he was definitely someone powerful. That was why she was not the least bit worried.

At the same time, Nangong Shuxian had already investigated Han Jingru's residence. After all, she was planning to go up against her grandson secretly. It would be foolish of her if she did not even know where he was living.

The Han family's driver was the one to bring them there, and Han Yu tagged along too. Soon, the three of them reached the area where Han Jingru lived.

"Grandma, I can't believe he's living in a trashy place like this," Han Yu commented as he scrunched up his face.

Nangong Shuxian smiled and patted his head. "Someone like him can only live in a place like this. There's nothing to feel strange about."

Han Yu nodded in understanding. *She's right. What right*

does Han Jingru have to stay in a good place after leaving the Han family?

He just won a battle at the Martial Arts Summit. One championship means nothing.

“Cut the crap and let’s go,” Zhong Changqiu grunted impatiently.

Nangong Shuxian was a woman with a fiery temper. Yet, in the face of Zhong Changqiu, she had suppressed her temper, as she knew where her place was. She was arrogant to her grandson she was talking to, but when it came to the Nangong family, she was like a dog, wagging her tail for praises.

Within minutes, they arrived outside Han Jingru’s house.

After Han Yu pressed the doorbell, he rubbed his fingers in disgust, as if the doorbell were coated in dirt.

Shi Yan was the one who went to open the door happily, thinking that Han Jingru had returned. Upon opening the door, her smile froze on her face. That was because instead of seeing Han Jingru, she saw Nangong Shuxian, Han Yu, and a stranger.

“What do you want?” Shi Yan questioned.

Han Yu did not even have a hint of respect for his biological mother. In fact, he did not even see her as his mother.

“Where’s Han Jingru? Tell him to get the hell out here,” Han Yu ordered rudely.

Shi Yan stiffened. *Are they here for trouble?*

“He’s not home,” came Shi Yan’s curt reply.

“He’s hiding from the world like an ostrich with its head in the sands? Han Yu scoffed as he raised his voice, hoping that Han Jingru would hear him.

Unfortunately for him, his brother was really not home. No matter how loud he said it, Han Jingru could never hear it.

“Even if you shout with a megaphone, he still won’t be home. I’m sorry. I won’t be seeing you off.” At that, Shi Yan moved to close the door.

Right then, Nangong Shuxian reached out and stopped the door. Coldly, she said to Shi Yan, “Shi Yan, how dare you close the door in my face? Have you forgotten your place?”

Shi Yan had years of living under Nangong Shuxian’s oppression, and the fear she had for the older woman was rooted in her subconscious mind. Even if she disliked Nangong Shuxian, she still could not conceal the fear from showing on her face when she saw Nangong Shuxian’s cold look.

“What are you trying to do?” Shi Yan questioned.

“If he’s not home, I’ll wait until he’s home.” Nangong Shuxian then pushed open the door and walked straight in.

“Hah. How different is this place from a dog’s kennel? He’s so impressive, but this is the place he’s living in?”

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Ad



Han Yu mocked the moment he entered.

As everything in the house was left by the previous owner, most of them looked old. However, Han Jingru cared not for their condition, so he never thought of changing them.

“Do whatever you want. I’m going back to my room.” Shi Yan did not wish to keep looking at Nangong Shuxian. Since she was unable to chase her away, she could only resort to avoiding her. At the same time, she also had to inform Han Jingru about their appearances so that he would not be taken by surprise when he came home.

The second Shi Yan closed her bedroom door, Nangong Shuxian frowned and walked toward the room, kicking at the door vigorously.

She was afraid that Han Jingru would not dare to come home after Shi Yan informed him, so she had to stop the younger woman’s plan.

“Get back out here!” Nangong Shuxian roared.

The panicked Shi Yan held her phone with trembling hands. Just as she was about to call Han Jingru, the door suddenly flew open, and it was nearly torn away from its hinges.

The stranger who came along was standing by the doorway. Evidently, he was the one who kicked the door open.

When Nangong Shuxian saw the phone in Shi Yan’s hands, she instantly snatched it away and slapped Shi Yan hard.

“Are you trying to inform him? How dare you!” With that said, Nangong Shuxian slapped her again.

Almost immediately, Shi Yan’s face turned red and swollen.

Instead of feeling upset that his mother had been slapped, Han Yu laughed delightfully.

“Mom, he’s your grandson too, and you know how well he’s doing now. If you keep this up, I’m afraid you won’t even get to regret it in the future,” Shi Yan said as she cupped her face. While her cheeks were stinging in pain, it was incomparable to the pain she felt as her heart sank.

Han Jingru is impressive?

Han Jingru is doing well now?

No way!

Nangong Shuxian had never thought of that as something that had happened, not even when the rest of the world changed their impressions of Han Jingru. Some even wondered why an impressive character like him was treated like trash by the Han family.

Yet, Nangong Shuxian dismissed his achievement completely. Even now, she still felt that Han Yu was the future of the family. Everything Han Jingru had was nothing but a trick.

“Shi Yan, when have you become worthy of telling me what to do? You’re just a daughter-in-law in the Han family that can be easily replaced. Stop thinking of

yourself so highly. All Han Ying needs is a word from me, and he'll divorce you. Who do you think you are?" Nangong Shuxian hissed in disdain.

A bitter smile crept across Shi Yan's face. She never thought about this, but she knew that if Nangong Shuxian really did as she said, it was likely that Han Ying would heed her words.

However, does that matter?

From the moment Shi Yan stepped out of Han residence, she stopped thinking of herself as part of the Han family.

Now, she only wanted to give Han Jingru what she should have given to him all those years as his mother.

"I'll watch and wait for the day when you regret this," Shi Yan challenged her.

Enraged by her words, Nangong Shuxian once again slapped Shi Yan.

Just then, a cold voice sounded behind them.

"Nangong Shuxian, what are you doing?"



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The instance Zhong Changqiu heard Han Jingru's voice, he turned around. Although his attention was on Nangong Shuxian earlier, he did not even sense someone standing behind him. That realization sent chills down Zhong Changqiu's spine.

If he's not a child but my enemy, Zhong Changqiu thought, I'm afraid I'd be a corpse in a puddle of blood by now.

"Han Jingru, you're finally back," Nangong Shuxian uttered as she maliciously grinned at him.

In comparison with tormenting Shi Yan, Nangong Shuxian would rather spend her time on Han Jingru.

With a glowering expression, Han Jingru walked toward Shi Yan.

By now, Shi Yan's face was already swollen, and the handprints on her face were exceptionally red. At the sight of that, the fury in Han Jingru rose like a tide.

"Nangong Shuxian, you're not at the Han residence right now. This isn't the place for you to lord over," Han Jingru spat out.

In response, Nangong Shuxian smirked. With Zhong Changqiu around, she was not afraid of Han Jingru at all.

Moreover, it did not matter if she was at the Han residence or not. Han Jingru was nothing to Nangong Shuxian, so why would she care about where they were?

"Han Jingru, since the Han residence couldn't be your cage, I've decided to change a place for you. From now

on, you'll disappear in Yan City, and your name will be mine to use," Nangong Shuxian declared.

Han Jingru knew there must be a reason for her to look for him today. After all, his performance at the Martial Arts Summit was more than enough to make Nangong Shuxian realize his prowess.

Now that there was an unfamiliar man by her side, this must be the backup he had heard about.

A while back, Han Ying told him that Nangong Boling had looked for help from Nangong Boling. Hence, this man by her side was definitely sent by Nangong Boling.

"You're one of Nangong Boling's men?" Han Jingru asked Zhong Changqiu.

The moment those words left his mouth, shock flashed across Nangong Shuxian's face.

It was impossible for Han Jingru to know about his identity in the Han family. Other than Han Xiuzhi, no one else knew about Nangong Boling. *How does he know about it?*

"How do you know about Nangong Boling?" Nangong Shuxian voiced the question in her heart in bewilderment.

Han Jingru gave her a faint smile. "You were abandoned by the Nangong family. As an easily replaceable pawn, I'm surprised Nangong Boling actually lent you a helping hand. I wonder if he did it out of sympathy, or he thought you were still useful."

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Ad



Zhong Changqiu did not even need Nangong Boling's permission to execute him.

Nangong Boling would not say anything about his swift action, as Han Jingru had known too much of his secrets.

"Do you think you can kill me?" Han Jingru muttered.

Zhong Changqiu scoffed before saying, "Brat, are you looking down on me? Who gave you the courage to think like that?"

Right as those words were spoken, Zhong Changqiu made his killing blow with not even a trace of hesitation.

As a flash appeared by Zhong Changqiu's hands, Han Jingru slammed his palm on his chest in an even quicker move.

The great force made him take several steps back as fiery agony burned in his chest. At that moment, Zhong Changqiu knew Han Jingru was no easy opponent.

"Brat, I didn't think you're indeed quite capable," Zhong Changqiu commented.

Han Jingru remained silent. Now that Zhong Changqiu bore the thought of killing him, the man would not rest until he was dead.

On the contrary, Han Jingru was not going to kill Zhong Changqiu. He still needed the latter to bring his message back to Nangong Boling.

"If you weren't useful, you'd have no chance of surviving.

Be glad that you're still of use to me," Han Jingru uttered.

Parting his lips, Zhong Changqiu replied, "I was careless earlier. Do you really think I can't defeat you?"

Zhong Changqiu was being truthful. He was indeed careless earlier, for he had not thought about the blind spot of his move, and that was why that had happened.

However, Zhong Changqiu would have died just now if Han Jingru intended to kill him.

Han Jingru now had the full set of the skeleton, and he had reached the Alpha Stage of Xenos. The mere fighters of Earth were no longer comparable to him.

"Do you know what despair is?" Han Jingru chuckled.

Right as Zhong Changqiu was about to speak, he saw Han Jingru in front of him suddenly. The boy was just a hair's breadth away, without him knowing when he had moved.

A sense of danger crashed over him like a tsunami. Just as Zhong Changqiu was about to defend himself, Han Jingru had already gripped his neck with one hand.

He then lifted Zhong Changqiu off the ground, and the latter could feel himself getting lesser and lesser air into his lungs.

"H-How can this be?" Zhong Changqiu croaked out. Everything had just happened in a split second, and before he realized what happened, his life was already in Han Jingru's hands.

“Don’t move. I might accidentally break your neck,” Han Jingru noted.

His words forced Zhong Changqiu to calm down and stopped struggling.

“I’ll give you another chance to send my message back. Tell Nangong Boling to come and meet me,” Han Jingru repeated.

By now, Zhong Changqiu could no longer breathe, and he could not reply to him. All he could do was blink rapidly in response.

“How powerful I am is beyond your imagination, because I’m the absolute being in the place Nangong Boling has been searching for,” Han Jingru continued.

The place Nangong Boling has been searching for!

And he’s the absolute being there!

At that moment, Zhong Changqiu finally realized how much he had underestimated Han Jingru. It was then he realized how absurd he was to even try to kill Han Jingru earlier.



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Nangong Boling was confident with Zhong Changqiu's prowess, for he was someone sent by Nangong Boling. Therefore, she came with the utmost confidence of succeeding this time.

Yet, not even in her dreams had she thought things would take a turn.

Furthermore, it seemed like Han Jingru knew about many things, which shocked Nangong Shuxian even more.

Han Jingru seemed to know well about her identity, the Nangong family's background, and even information on Nangong Boling. Disbelief had overwhelmed Nangong Shuxian at her newfound knowledge.

Although Han Jingru was a scheming boy and he had set up his own company, Nangong Shuxian could not think of how Han Jingru had found out about the Nangong family.

Even if he had a way to find out about those things, how could he have known such in-depth details about them?

At that very moment, Nangong Shuxian had to change her impression of Han Jingru. It seemed like the useless boy was not as useless as she thought he was. Otherwise, he would not have learned so much about her family.

Just as Zhong Changqiu was about to die from suffocation, Han Jingru finally let go of him.

On the ground, Zhong Changqiu was gasping for breaths, and his face was as red as a tomato. After this ordeal, he

dared not underestimate Han Jingru anymore.

He's the absolute being there. I have to tell Nangong Boling about this as soon as possible.

"Leave now, and convey my message to Nangong Boling. I hope to see him soon," Han Jingru reminded.

After sparing another glance at Nangong Shuxian, he left without hesitation.

Nangong Shuxian had wanted to make Zhong Changqiu stay, but a thought entered her mind. *What the use of him staying? He's no match for Han Jingru.*

"Mom, are you okay?" Han Jingru walked toward Shi Yan. Her face was still red and swollen, a sign of how ruthless Nangong Shuxian had been when she slapped her.

Shi Yan shook her head. Those were just a few slaps, and they were nothing for her. With how domineering Nangong Shuxian was, she had to count her lucky stars that the old woman did not killed her right there and then.

"Grandma, let's go." Han Yu, who was hiding behind Nangong Shuxian, voiced. Now that their shield, Zhong Changqiu, was gone, Han Yu knew that this was no place to linger around. Moreover, he now dared not bare his teeth at his younger brother. Han Jingru was too powerful and he had to act meekly around him.

Grabbing Han Yu's hand, Nangong Shuxian was about to leave the place.

She had only taken two steps when Han Jingru inquired,

“Trying to leave?”

Turning to look at Han Jingru icily, she uttered, “Do you think you can stop me from leaving?”

“Nangong Shuxian, you really don’t get what’s going on at all. Do you think I’d let you off easily after you created a ruckus in my house?” Han Jingru asked.

However, there was no way Nangong Shuxian would bow to Han Jingru; she would never change her attitude toward Han Jingru. “What can you do to me?”

“Apologize to my mother,” Han Jingru said.

At his words, Nangong Shuxian snorted. *Apologize to Shi Yan?*

No way in hell.

She’s just a daughter-in-law in the Han family, and she’s only a child-bearing machine. How can I possibly apologize to a woman without any status like her?

“Han Jingru, don’t think you are conceited? How dare you ask me, Nangong Shuxian, to apologize?” Nangong Shuxian snarled.

“Conceited?” A faint smile grew on Han Jingru’s lips before he continued, “Am I conceited? Am I not truly powerful? Even the man sent by Nangong Boling is no match for me. Am I not powerful enough?”

Nangong Shuxian could not refute those words of his. Even if she refused to admit that Han Jingru did well at the Martial Arts Summit, she could not deny that Han

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Ad



Jingru had been much more powerful than Zhong Changqiu was.

“Han Jingru, one or two lucky coincidences won’t mean you’ll always be lucky,” Nangong Shuxian cackled.

Lucky?

Han Jingru never thought Nangong Shuxian would attribute his accomplishments to mere luck. *What a joke.*

“If you refuse to apologize before walking out of this house, I’ll make you regret your decision for the rest of your life. Nangong Boling will surely come to Yan City to meet me,” Han Jingru asserted.

Those were the words that worried Nangong Shuxian. A myriad of emotions had already surged into her heart when she heard Han Jingru saying those words to Zhong Changqiu earlier.

If there was anyone in this world that frightened Nangong Shuxian, it would definitely be Nangong Boling.

If Nangong Boling really came to Yan City because of Han Jingru, it would be a fatal blow to Nangong Shuxian. It was because if that really happened, she would not have any excuses to dismiss Han Jingru’s prowess anymore.

However...

Nangong Boling was not here yet.

Nangong Shuxian was not one to fear death until she had one foot in the grave.

The Mo family?

Shi Yan froze for a second after hearing his reply. “You mean the Mo family of the Yan City’s Three Principal Families?”

“Yes. That man, Mo Yanshang, is one stubborn old man,” Han Jingru noted.

Reasons unbeknownst to Shi Yan, the corner of her eye was twitching. Although she did not know what had happened, her instincts were telling her that there must be no good reason for Han Jingru to have gone to the Mo family.

“You... couldn’t have offended the Mo family, right?” Shi Yan tried to get more information. Although Han Jingru now had a good relationship with the Yang family, he was now an enemy of the Wang family. If he crossed the Mo family now, he would become the common enemies of the two leading families in Yan City. If that really happened, Shi Yan was worried that the Yang family might cut ties with Han Jingru.



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For Shi Yan to think like that was because she did not know how vital Han Jingru was to the Yang family. To her, the moment the Mo family team up with the Wang family, the Yang family would be threatened. Hence, the only way to avoid being targeted by the other two families; the Yang family might give up on Han Jingru by cutting ties with him.

Shi Yan would have never imagined that Yang Bin was more excited than worried about the incident. To him, Han Jingru was the key for the Yang family to dominate the other two families.

Han Jingru told his mother everything that happened at the Mo family, and she was dumbfounded by his story.

She could not believe that Han Jingru managed to leave the Mo family unscathed after causing such a ruckus at the Mo family. It was unbelievable.

Mo Yanshang was a man known to be a ruthless character. *How can he possibly bow to Han Jingru?*

Who is this Qi Family that Han Jingru would cross the Mo family for?

“You’re not joking with me, right? Mo Yanshang really said yes to you?” Shi Yan breathed out in disbelief.

Han Jingru smiled at her. It was normal for his mother to react in this way, as Mo Yanshang was a reputable man in society. No one would believe that he had relented to a fourteen-year-old teenager.

However, that was exactly what happened, and Mo Yanshang had made a promise to him too.

Whether or not he would be able to fulfill his promise in a week would be another matter.

“He really agreed to it. However, with the kind of person he is, I’m sure things haven’t come to an end,” Han Jingru replied. He had no high hopes that Mo Yanshang would simply carry out his words, so Han Jingru had mentally prepared himself for the worst.

Shi Yan nodded in understanding. If Mo Yanshang were to do as he said, he would not be his ruthless self.

“What kind of relationship do you have with the Qi Family? You can’t have fallen in love with their daughter, can you?” Shi Yan wondered.

At that, Han Jingru rolled his eyes. Shi Yan had the ability to raise the topic of love no matter what issue they were talking about.

However, that did not mean Han Jingru disliked her. After all, Shi Yan had sacrificed so much for him. It would be a lie to say that he was not a little touched at all; his heart was not made of stone.

“Mom, I’m fourteen this year, and she’s ten. Do you think I’d like her?” Han Jingru muttered.

“You’re right. She’s only ten; she still has a child’s body. She’s incomparable to Wu Xin,” Shi Yan said in a casual tone.

Speechless by her words, Han Jingru let out an exasperated laugh when his mother mentioned Wu Xin again.

“Mom, rather than thinking about these, why don’t you spend time thinking about cooking?” Han Jingru reminded.

It was then Shi Yan howled before rushing back to the kitchen. She had forgotten about the soup she had left stewing on the stove.

Han Jingru then rested on the couch with his eyes closed, thinking about what Mo Yanshang would do to him next.

That sly old man was someone who was raised in a harsh environment, so his behaviors would differ vastly from most ordinary people. That was what Han Jingru needed to be wary about.

Meanwhile, at Mo family villa.

Mo Yanshang was alone in the study room, the wrath growing in him was like a tumor. He wished he could kill Han Jingru right there and then when he was so disrespectful to him.

However, it seemed like Han Jingru was a powerful person, so he had to be cautious with every step he took.

“It’ll be the second round of the Martial Arts Summit tomorrow. Han Jingru, let me see how mighty you can be,” Mo Yanshang mumbled under his breath as he took out his phone.

As the head of the Mo family, although Mo Yanshang could not completely control the Martial Arts Summit, it was still an easy feat for him to make minor changes to it.

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Ad



"I want to make some changes to Han Jingru's match opponent tomorrow. Match him up with the strongest opponent," Mo Yanshang instructed.

The person on the other end of the line dared not waste any second in working on Mo Yanshang's instruction. Although it was against the competition rules, Mo Yanshang's status allowed him to work in the shadows.

"Mr. Mo, I'll work on it right away."

"Remember to put him against the strongest. If you do not do this well, I'll make your life a living hell," Mo Yanshang threatened.

"Yes, of course, Mr. Mo. I know what to do."

After ending the call, Mo Yanshang heaved a heavy sigh.

Han Jingru had given him a week to carry out what he promised, and Mo Yanshang had to figure out what he should do within the shortest time possible. Whether or not he would be going back on his words would depend on Han Jingru's performance at the Martial Arts Summit tomorrow.

If the strongest contestant at the Martial Arts Summit was still no match for Han Jingru, Mo Yanshang would have to consider doing as Han Jingru had requested.

The Mo family had their men within the Martial Arts Summit, and so did the other two families.

Hence, when something in the competition changed, the Wang family received news of it immediately.

The moment Wang Li heard about it, he went to look for Wang Linqi.

“Grandpa, it’s so strange. Mo Yanshang made some changes to the matches tomorrow, and he arranged the most likely winner to go up against Han Jingru instead. What’s going on?” Wang Li queried, feeling baffled. Normally, the Mo family would be watching from the side while doing nothing at a time like this. That was why he was confused by Mo Yanshang’s arrangement.

The one who would most likely become the champion this time was Yan Bingfeng of the Tiandi Martial Arts Academy. He was also the one that everyone cheered the loudest for this year.

Why did Mo Yanshang do that?

“Are there any other news about it?” Wang Linqi queried.

Wang Li shook his head. He knew nothing about it, merely curious about Mo Yanshang’s sudden arrangement.

“No. Technically, Han Jingru and Mo Yanshang shouldn’t have any conflicts,” Wang Li commented.

Wang Linqi shook his head. There was no way Mo Yanshang would do this if they did not have any conflict with each other.

He knew Mo Yanshang well. The current fight between the Yang family and the Wang family was good news to Mo Yanshang. He could have done nothing and reap the seeds when both sides tired out, but now, he was entering the fight. This meant that something else was

going on.

The changes he made to the Martial Arts Summit were an indicator of what his aim was. He was either testing Han Jingru's abilities or trying to stop Han Jingru from competing further in the Martial Arts Summit.

It would be good news for them if it were the latter, but not if it were the former.

For Mo Yanshang to test his waters personally meant that he was wary of Han Jingru. The reason for him to be wary of Han Jingru was the key of the entire incident.

"Get someone to find out if the Mo family has been in contact with Han Jingru," Wang Linqi instructed.

"Yes, I'm on it," Wang Li answered.

"Mo Yanshang, you old bugger, what are you trying to do?" Wang Linqi muttered to himself.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Meanwhile, the Yang family had also received the same news.

Unlike the Wang family, the Yang family knew what was going on. Hence, Yang Bin knew the reason for Mo Yanshang's actions, and he could not help but sigh helplessly.

At the start, he had wanted to get rid of the Mo family with this incident, but it seemed unlikely now.

For Mo Yanshang to make adjustments to the matches and arrange a new opponent for Han Jingru meant that Mo Yanshang was testing out the boy's capabilities. Although the results had yet to come out, Yang Bin could almost make a good guess of it.

How could Yan Bingfeng win against Han Jingru, a Platinum rank fighter of the Apocalypse, in the match?

The reason for him to have become the most popular candidate for this year's Martial Arts Summit was that many had yet to realize how powerful Han Jingru was. The moment they realized his true powers, Yan Bingfeng would soon be forgotten.

"I never thought the once-almighty Mo Yanshang would be afraid of a fourteen-year-old kid," Yang Bin sighed.

Song Yun knew what Yang Bin was thinking about. He would be the most delighted if Mo family went back on his words and a fight occurred between Mo Yanshang and Han Jingru. If that happened, it was likely that the Mo family would be erased from Yan City.

The words of a Platinum fighter in the Apocalypse were

not to be taken lightly.

However, Mo Yanshang was now old. When one was old, one would fear and feel anxious. None of their actions would be as reckless and immediate as when they were younger.

On top of that, Han Jingru's performance in the preliminaries had been so impressive. He had shown his capabilities to the Mo family, so it was normal for Mo Yanshang to be wary of him.

"Mo Yanshang really has grown old. He's no longer as arrogant and full of vigor as he used to be," Song Yun remarked.

"That's right. I'm afraid he'll really have to give in this time," Yang Bin agreed.

To Yang Bin, the results of the competition tomorrow were set in stone. That was why he knew what Mo Yanshang's investigation results would be.

After Han Jingru won Yan Bingfeng, Mo Yanshang would have to carry out the things he promised as quickly as possible.

"It's nothing bad. At least no one can replace the relationship between the Yang family and Han Jingru," Song Yun voiced.

At the thought of that, a smile crept upon Yang Bin's face. Although he could not immediately get rid of the Mo family, the other two families were not comparable to the Yang family with Han Jingru by his side.

“That’s right. Who would’ve thought that the Yang family and Han Jingru would become friends because of a conflict?” Yang Bin chuckled.

“God must be watching over us.”

Yang Bin nodded, not denying Song Yun’s words.

The next day, an uproar exploded at Tiandi Martial Arts Academy.

As the most popular candidate, Yan Bingfeng did not need to participate in the earlier rounds. Yet, the summit had only progressed to the second round but Yan Bingfeng was already summoned. This was something Tiandi Martial Arts Academy had not expected.

“Sir, what’s going on? Why are they asking Bingfeng to attend it already?”

“Bingfeng’s the popular candidate that they think will win the summit. He doesn’t need to join the preliminaries.”

“Did someone pull a trick and trying to create trouble for Tiandi Martial Arts Academy?”

Even the owner of the academy was baffled. He had just received the news, and he too had no idea what was going on. However, that was the arrangement that the Martial Arts Summit had made.

“Sir, I’ve been thinking of warming myself up too. Since the summit has asked for my attendance, I’ll go. Anyway, he can’t possibly be a match for me.” Yan Bingfeng was a tall man, but he did not have bulging muscles. Instead, he had more lean muscles, and his good looks had

attracted many young female fans for him.

For a young man to be idolized by others was something to be proud of. Although he was not a celebrity, he was living the life of one. In fact, Yan Bingfeng was looking forward to attending the summit. Only when he was in the ring then he could show his fans how mighty he was.

However, the academy owner had a solemn look on his face. If Yan Bingfeng were to face an average opponent, he would not be so worried. With Yan his skills, he could easily win against the other competitors.

However, his opponent was Han Jingru, and he was someone who made the academy owner anxious.

In the first round of the preliminaries, Han Jingru had ended his battle with a knockout. This was Martial Arts Summit.

Although the academy owner had not seen it for himself, he had heard many discussing it. Han Jingru's opponent was sent flying out of the ring. That itself was more than enough to show that he was no ordinary fighter.

"Bingfeng, your opponent is Han Jingru, so you mustn't underestimate him," the academy owner warned.

However, Yan Bingfeng smirked at that. As the most popular candidate, he was too proud to think highly of a nobody.

There were only three opponents that Yan Bingfeng paid attention to in the entire competition. Of those three, none was Han Jingru.

“Sir, I heard that this Han Jingru is just a boy. You can’t possibly think that I’ll lose the fight, can you?” Yan Bingfeng chuckled.

“Sir, you’re underestimating Bingfeng. How can he possibly lose?”

“That’s right. He’s the most popular candidate to become champion. Han Jingru is nothing but a wooden dummy for him.”

“I really can’t understand why the Martial Arts Summit would arrange such a lousy opponent for Bingfeng.”

Hearing his students’ words, the academy owner sighed. He knew Yan Bingfeng was strong, but as the only candidate the Yang family had sent out, Han Jingru was not someone to be underestimated. Moreover, he had shown his own capabilities in his first battle.

Yan Bingfeng hoped that Han Bingfeng would not be taken by surprise.

“You have to be cautious,” the academy owner reminded.

Although Yan Bingfeng nodded in response, he took no heed of the academy owner’s words. His mind was preoccupied with guessing how many would be cheering for him at the scene. He, who had a dream to become a celebrity, could not wait to hear the crowd cheering for him.

Meanwhile, at Han Jingru’s house.

The mother and son were having their breakfast when someone suddenly knocked on the door.

The main reason for Wu Xin to tag along was because she was impressed by Han Jingru's carefree demeanor on the ring. Her interest in him made her eager to see an even better performance from him.

However, Wu Xin did not think that she had fallen in love with Han Jingru. After all, he was but a teenager. However, her interest in him was built on romance, and that confused her.

"No," Han Jingru rejected instantly. He had wanted to draw a line between Wu Xin and himself for a long time. Naturally, he would not try to initiate any contact with her. Moreover, if Wu Xin were too close to him, she would be in danger.

After all, Han Jingru was now an enemy of the Mo family. If the Mo family wanted to deal with him with dirty tricks, Wu Xin would certainly be one of their targets.

"But why?" She had not expected him to turn down her request so bluntly. At the same time, she was very curious about his reason for doing that. After all, she was only going as a spectator.

"No reason. It's best that you stop looking for me from now on, and I'll move away as quickly as possible." At that, Han Jingru closed the door.

Wu Xin, standing outside his house, was dumbfounded. *Don't look for him? Move away as quickly as possible?*

What does he mean by that?

At that moment, Wu Xin felt that someone had dug out

her heart.

In the house, Shi Yan sighed. Han Jingru had just heartlessly rejected a good girl like Wu Xin. To her, Wu Xin was a good learning partner for Han Jingru in his journey of love.

On the other hand, Han Jingru ignored Shi Yan, for he knew what she was thinking about.

“You’re too ruthless. Wu Xin’s a pretty girl too. Is it really a wise choice for you to hurt her like this?” Shi Yan commented.

“Mom, she’ll be in danger if she’s too close to me. Moreover, nothing will happen between the two of us,” Han Jingru answered.

She’ll be in danger if she’s too close to him?

Shi Yan knew what he meant.

After all, Han Jingru had too many enemies in Yan City now. If they were to find out that Wu Xin had a good relationship with Han Jingru, she would be in danger.

However, his second sentence was what she could not understand.

He’s single, and she’s single too. Why is it impossible for anything to happen between them?

“Jingru, be honest with me. Do you not like girls?” Shi Yan tentatively asked.

Han Jingru’s expression turned gloomy instantly.

He naturally knew what Shi Yan meant—she was asking him if he liked guys instead.

How could Han Jingru possibly have such special interests? Of course, he liked women but the only woman he liked was Su Yimo.

“You can think of whatever you like. After all, no matter what I say, you’ll think that there’s something wrong with me. I’m done explaining to you,” Han Jingru muttered.

Shi Yan’s eyes glistened. She could not believe Han Jingru was giving up on explaining. It seemed like he really swung the other way!

Shi Yan refused to allow such a thing to happen. She thought, *I really have to let Han Jingru know how lovely women are. I have to stop him from entering the world of forbidden love.*

Once they finished their breakfast, the two left the house to take a cab to the Martial Arts Summit.

As Han Jingru was still underage, he did not have a driving license, and it was extremely inconvenient for him. After all, a car was important for moving around in modern society.

“Mom, why don’t we buy a car? Don’t you know how to drive?” Han Jingru asked.

Finding no flaws in his question, Shi Yan nodded. She would not be that foolish to ask if Han Jingru had the money to buy a car.

After reaching the venue, Han Jingru realized the second

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round of the preliminaries was much livelier than the first, and it confused him.

To his knowledge, the audience would only increase after the preliminaries were over and when the main competition began. That was how the Martial Arts Summit was every year.

What's going on today? Are these people too bored?

Soon, Han Jingru realized something else. Women were more than men in the audience. Furthermore, with the clothes they were dressed up in, they seemed to be the daughters of rich and prominent families.

When did these girls who prefer shopping started watching fights?

“Jingru, these girls can't be here for you, can they?” Shi Yan chuckled.

Han Jingru was now well known in the upper-class society of Yan City, and that was why Shi Yan wondered if they were here for her son.

However, Han Jingru did not share the same thoughts as her. After all, the ones who truly paid attention to him were mostly the people of the martial arts world.

“I never thought that I'd be able to see Yan Bingfeng's fight so soon! I'm so happy.”

“I thought Yan Bingfeng will only appear in the main competition. Why is he in the preliminaries?”

“This is good too. This means that we can see him

sooner.”

“I heard his opponent is a boy named Han Jingru. I have no idea who he is to be worthy of fighting against Yan Bingfeng.”

“Well, whoever he is, he’s no match for Bingfeng.”

After hearing the discussion among the young women, Han Jingru finally found out what was going on.

As it turned out, the reason for so many women to be here was because of a man named Yan Bingfeng, who was also his opponent.

However, Han Jingru was still a little baffled. *Who is this Yan Bingfeng to attract so many rich young women’s attention? He can’t be an idol in the martial arts world, can he?*

All of a sudden, Shi Yan sighed, feeling disappointed. She had been hopeful, thinking that those young women were here for Han Jingru, but the reality was quick to reveal itself.

Glancing at her, Han Jingru was trapped between laughing and frowning. He honestly could not comprehend Shi Yan’s thoughts. It was as if his mother feared no woman would fall in love with him, and she was already hoping that he would be in a relationship at the age of fourteen years old.

“Jingru, it seemed like this Yan Bingfeng isn’t an easy opponent,” Shi Yan murmured to her son.

For him to be as popular as this, he naturally would be no

simple nor easy opponent. Furthermore, Han Jingru had overheard someone saying that Yan Bingfeng had not needed to participate in the preliminaries. That meant that he must be quite a good fighter.

However, something was definitely amiss for someone who was not required to participate in the preliminaries to appear now.

“It looks like someone has intentionally arranged for me to fight him, hoping to eliminate me from the competition,” Han Jingru noted with a smile.

Upon hearing his words, the first thing that came to Shi Yan’s mind was the Mo family.

The Wang family had already found out how tough Han Jingru was, so it was impossible for them to take another reckless step. Other than them, the only one who had a grudge against Han Jingru was the Mo family.

Right then, Yang Wanlin jogged over, panting heavily.



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“Jingru, have you heard who your opponent is?” asked Yang Wanlin, after sighing deeply.

“I heard it’s someone called Yan Bingfeng, but I have no idea who he really is. All I know is that he was granted the privilege of skipping the preliminary round,” replied Han Jingru.

Yang Wanlin nodded and said, “He is the trending topic of the Martial Arts Summit and is extremely powerful, so they let him skip the preliminary rounds. He only rejected that offer and participated to come after you.”

Han Jingru wasn’t surprised to hear that at all. He simply asked, “The Mo family is behind this, aren’t they?”

“Yep. It’s likely that Mo Yanshang made the arrangements personally. Otherwise, Yan Bingfeng won’t have shown up in the second round,” said Yang Wanlin.

Han Jingru grinned. That was what he had expected. After all, the Mo family was one of the Three Principal Families, so there was no way Mo Yanshang would keep his promise just like that. However, him testing the waters so carefully meant that he feared Han Jingru to a certain extent. That was the only reason why Mo Yanshang only defied Han Jingru in the shadows.

In a way, that was good news, because it could help Han Jingru solve a lot of problems.

All Han Jingru had to do was to win the battle against Yan Bingfeng in the boxing ring. The Mo family would likely do everything he asked after that.

Just then, the whole place was filled with screaming in

high-pitched voices.

Those screams became louder and louder as the women were shouting Yan Bingfeng's name like they had gone insane.

"Yan Bingfeng is handsome, so he has tons of fans, and all of them are women. I'm guessing that all the ladies are only here for him," explained Yang Wanlin in a jealous tone. He might have been a member of the Yang family, but compared to Yan Bingfeng, he was way behind in terms of his charm in attracting women.

They lived in a time when looks were valued highly. Being rich was just one of the factors that could attract women, but there were many women who didn't need the money. Hence, they went after good-looking men.

"You should see the look on your face right now. Are you really that jealous? It's not like the young master of the Yang family ever lacked women," said Han Jingru before he chuckled.

"It's true that women throw themselves at me, but still, I can't get this many women to cheer for me like that. Hence, I can only be envious," replied Yang Wanlin.

Yan Bingfeng and his team headed over at that moment. Han Jingru saw how that handsome man had a proud expression on his face and seemed to have remained unmoved by the cheering ladies. *Except he is grinning a little, which let slip that he enjoyed all that attention.*

Everyone standing on his path instinctively moved away under that circumstances, but Han Jingru and his friends did nothing of the sort.

“What are you standing around for? Move!” demanded one of Yan Bingfeng’s men.

“Who the hell do you think you are? How dare you talk to me in that tone?” growled Yang Wanlin evilly. Yan Bingfeng was more popular with the ladies. However, as the young Master of the Yang family, Yang Wanlin’s social status was a lot better than that of Yan Bingfeng’s. There was no way Yang Wanlin would let a nobody yell at him and get away with it.

The man scoffed. “Are you blind, punk? Can you not see who’s here?”

“I, Yang Wanlin, have never given a sh*t about him,” replied Yang Wanlin in disdain.

The man retracted his claws and turned a lot more polite the second he heard Yang Wanlin’s name. After all, Yang Wanlin’s family was one of the Three Principal Families, and Tiandi Martial Arts Academy could not afford to offend them carelessly.

Just then, Yan Bingfeng stepped forward and said, “Ah, that is so embarrassing. I’m sorry. My man here didn’t know who you are.”

“However, you are in my way,” added Yan Bingfeng after pausing for a moment.

Yan Bingfeng’s social status allowed him to be rude to everyone else, but as far as Yang Wanlin was concerned, this chap was way too cocky.

Yang Wanlin wasn’t the sort who would back away easily in the first place. As the young master of the Yang family,

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he definitely wouldn't make way for Yan Bingfeng. It'd just bring shame to his family's name.

"Yan Bingfeng, I didn't think that you're so dumb. When did Tiandi Martial Arts Academy become so arrogant? Did your master not teach you that there are some people that you can't afford to offend?" said Yang Wanlin.

"Mr. Yang, are you saying that we can't afford to offend you?" said Yan Bingfeng with a smirk.

That was a blatant challenge, and it got Yang Wanlin gritting his teeth.

"My people might do something irrational and rude if you don't move away. I wouldn't be able to hold them back when that happens. Are you sure you want to keep standing in the way, Mr. Yang?" added Yan Bingfeng.

It was obvious that Yan Bingfeng planned on abusing his martial arts skills to force Yang Wanlin to back down.

They were trained fighters, whereas Yang Wanlin was just someone from a rich family. Yan Bingfeng thought that if they disregard the consequence of their actions, Yang Wanlin would have to back down unless he was looking to get a round of beating.

Yang Wanlin had Han Jingru by his side, so the former didn't need to worry about the fighters of Tiandi Martial Arts Academy. Hence, he refused to back down.

"Go ahead. Let your idiots try," said Yang Wanlin.

Yan Bingfeng frowned. Things would not end well if a

fight actually broke out.

That being said, Yan Bingfeng didn't want to embarrass himself in front of so many fans.

*Gah, never mind. I'll just kick his a*s now and let the master deal with it later.*

"Have you thought this through, Yang Wanlin? Are you sure you want to do this?" asked Yan Bingfeng.

"Get in the boxing ring if you want to fight. There is no point in throwing punches now," said Han Jingru at that crucial moment.

Yan Bingfeng looked at Han Jingru from the corner of his eyes. Naturally, the former did not see someone as young as Han Jingru as a threat.

"Your young friend knows better, Yang Wanlin. My advice is that you should listen to him. Why let yourself suffer unnecessarily?" sneered Yan Bingfeng.

At that moment, someone from the crowd recognized Han Jingru, and murmurs began.

"Isn't that Han Jingru? He's the one fighting Yan Bingfeng today."

"Han Jingru showed tremendous strength during the first round. I wonder who will win today's fight."

"I'm guessing he won't shine much this time. After all, Yan Bingfeng is the top favorite and is most likely to be a champion whereas Han Jingru simply won one fight."

The spectators' murmurs reached Yan Bingfeng's ears soon after, and that prompted him to turn to Han Jingru.

This punk is my competitor? Oh, come on. This is ridiculous.

Yan Bingfeng wanted to show off his strength in the boxing ring that day, so he was disappointed to see that his opponent was just a young teenager. *There's nothing to brag about even after I won.*

"Y-you're my opponent?" asked Yan Bingfeng as he stared at Han Jingru in astonishment.

"Is there a problem with that?" asked Han Jingru in a plain voice.

"Urk..."

"Hahaha!"

"Hahaha!"

What happened next was all of Yan Bingfeng's men laughing aloud. Even Yan Bingfeng's fans, who weren't fighters themselves, couldn't help but laugh.

Does he even realize who Yan Bingfeng is? This man will most likely win the championship this year. How is a youngster his opponent at all? My gosh, this has got to be a joke!

"Y-you better hurry home, punk. Hahahaha."

"Kid, do you know where you are right now? Or what this place is for? Oh gosh, I'm dying from laughing here."

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Han Jingru wasn't bothered by the laughs at all.

After all, he was a man who had already been through all sorts of hell. *The happier they are, the more speechless they will become when we get into the boxing ring.*

"Y-you should just head home now. I'd feel guilty if I hurt you," said Yan Bingfeng with a laugh

Han Jingru shrugged before replying, "How will I know how things would end if I don't give it a try? What if I win by luck? Defeating someone like you will give my reputation a huge boost."

Yan Bingfeng snickered. *Does this punk actually plan on using me as his stepping stone? Wow, how much more arrogant can this kid be?*

"You should have at least some level of self-awareness. Do you even know what you're talking about?" asked Yan Bingfeng.

"Of course, I do. I will have you on your knees. Is that not clear enough?" said Han Jingru.

Yan Bingfeng put his smile away. Jokes like that were fine when made in moderation, but he would not go easy on Han Jingru after he made that remark.

As far as Yan Bingfeng was concerned, it was a tremendous insult to have a kid make claims like that.

"You chose to walk down this path, punk. Don't regret it. I won't show you any mercy in the boxing ring," scoffed Yan Bingfeng.

"I just hope that you can be louder when you beg for mercy, or I might not hear it," insulted Han Jingru.

Yan Bingfeng clenched his fist.

His fans couldn't help but started hurling abuse at Han Jingru when they heard what he said.

"Who the hell do you think you are? How dare you talk to Yan Bingfeng like that?"

"You insolent fool. Let's see if you can still be that arrogant in the boxing ring."

"Bingfeng, don't hold back later. Show him who's the boss!"

"Stupid kids like that need to be taught a lesson!"

The women's protest was so loud and noisy that Han Jingru felt a headache coming.

He never could understand how the mind of a fan operated. Unfortunately, he knew for a fact that in the future, that phenomenon would just get worse because most of the verbal wars online were caused by fans.

That made Han Jingru sigh in exasperation. *Are celebrities really worth all that attention and devotion?*

"What's wrong?" asked Shi Yan when she heard Han Jingru's sigh. She was worried about him thinking that he was not a match against Yan Bingfeng.

I will not let my son get into the boxing ring if he is not confident about winning because Yan Bingfeng definitely

won't hold back. My baby might get hurt very badly.

"It's nothing. I'm just a little sad. There are countless people who are worth celebrating and idolizing, but meaningless idiots are the ones who are well-received by the public. I honestly don't understand that," answered Han Jingru. *There are countless true heroes, but few know their names. The ones who are working hard behind the scenes... Those are the noble ones. The people showing up in front of everyone in beautiful clothes... What have they really done?*

Shi Yan didn't quite understand what Han Jingru meant because she didn't know how powerful the fan culture would get in the future.

"Jingru, we'll can back out of the competition if you can't beat him," said Shi Yan.

"Him?" said Han Jingru before he chuckled and added, "Why would I have any trouble beating the guy? I can crush him with one hand tied to my back."

Shi Yan worried less after hearing what he said.

Yang Wanlin couldn't wait to see Han Jingru fight in the boxing ring, so he reminded, "Jingru, everything goes as long as you don't kill him. Heck, you can cripple him, and it still won't be against the rules of the Martial Arts Summit."

Han Jingru chuckled and asked, "You're that angry?"

"That is only natural. That guy is too arrogant, and we must teach him a lesson," said Yang Wanlin through gritted teeth. The way he spoke showed just how angry

he was at Yan Bingfeng.

Han Jingru rested his hand on Yang Wanlin's shoulder and made a promise. "Don't worry. I will settle the score for you."

The entire hall was packed with people when it was almost time for the fight to begin. Under normal circumstances, a crowd like that would only gather for the semi-finals. That proved that Yan Bingfeng's influence was undeniably strong because a crowd like that would not have gathered otherwise.

Yan Bingfeng's fans weren't the only ones watching the show, though. Many martial arts fighters were there as well. Some of those fighters came because they had witnessed Han Jingru's strength and wanted to see him fight again. The other fighters dropped by because they heard the rumors about how strong Han Jingru was, and they wanted to see for themselves.

The people who did not practice martial arts were simply shocked by Han Jingru's performance in his earlier fights. However, anyone who was familiar with how things truly worked would be suspicious. No one knew if Han Jingru had given it his all, or if he had been holding back in his previous fight, and that was something most people wanted to find out.

Han Jingru's opponent for the day was Yan Bingfeng, and that got the other fighters even more curious. *Will Han Jingru continue to crush his competitor and win?*

In short, the people who did not practice martial arts were there to see Yan Bingfeng, but those who practiced martial arts were there to check Han Jingru's skill out.

“If Yan Bingfeng is no match against Han Jingru, then there will likely be a power shift in the martial arts world in Yan City.”

“I know, right? The kid is so young. If he’s already that strong, then he will surely become the spokesperson for the martial arts world. The martial arts academy that could get him to join it will surely become the most popular academy in Yan City.”

“I heard that Han Jingru is only attached to the Yang family. He doesn’t belong to any martial arts academy. If he wins this battle, it is likely that every academy will go all out to recruit him.”

Yan Bingfeng got into the boxing ring at that moment. The entire place roared as soon as he showed up.

“Yan Bingfeng!”

“Yan Bingfeng!”

“Yan Bingfeng!”

Every fangirl’s throat held nothing back and shrieked as loudly as they could at that moment. Their combined voices were so loud that the roof would’ve flown up if they were in a cartoon.

Yan Bingfeng acted like a humble professional after getting into the boxing ring. He had his hands behind his back as he acknowledged his fans’ cheers.

That was something Yan Bingfeng enjoyed immensely. He loved receiving the public’s cheer and approval because it made him feel like he was a god, standing on

the top of a mountain and staring down at mere mortals.

The cheers died down instantly when Yan Bingfeng lifted his arm. That level of control made him feel like every woman was his puppet.

“What are you waiting for? Are you scared?” asked Yan Bingfeng.

Han Jingru stepped into the boxing ring like a regular dude.

Some women discriminated against Han Jingru, and they booed to insult and disrupt him.

However, those white noises didn't make Han Jingru feel bad at all. His strengths and skills were real, so that level of disruption meant nothing to him. All the ladies did was wasting their breath.

“Looks like no one thinks you will win. They may as well just announce the winner now,” said Yan Bingfeng gleefully.

“Make your moves quickly. I'm afraid you won't get to use them if you don't,” said Han Jingru.



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Yan Bingfeng wasn't angry with Han Jingru's challenge. Instead, the former grinned from the bottom of his heart because he thought that the latter was nothing more than an arrogant moron.

I am deemed to have the best shot at winning this competition whereas Han Jingru is just a nameless punk. He's only won one battle so far, but he's acting so proudly in front of me!

"Running your mouth like that will just make you die faster, punk," said Yan Bingfeng.

The master of Tiandi Martial Arts Academy looked a little grim while sitting with the other spectators. He had examined Han Jingru's fight from the earlier battle, and the strength Han Jingru showed was formidable. *The kid is definitely an expert. If Yan Bingfeng underestimates his opponent, things might end really ugly for him. It's so frustrating that Yan Bingfeng is too proud to listen to my warnings.*

"I'll just pray that I'm overthinking this. If not...." murmured the master before he sighed. He knew it was probable that Yan Bingfeng would fall so far that he never get back up again if he were to lose this battle. This was because Yan Bingfeng had too many fans now, so losing the battle would mean the end for him. Youngsters like him would not be able to handle a fall like that.

The referee had both parties make their final preparations in the boxing ring. That meant that the fight was about to begin.

The cheers for Yan Bingfeng became even louder. They

shouted his name in unison, and the martial arts competition suddenly became Yan Bingfeng's personal stage. It was as if he was a celebrity performing at a concert.

However, Yan Bingfeng enjoyed it. He felt like the brightest star that had captivated everyone on earth.

"Ready. Fight!" declared the referee, who kick-started everything.

The cheers stopped at that moment. Almost everyone had their eyes on Yan Bingfeng because they wanted to see how he'd crush his opponent and what moves he'd make to win the competition.

Those same people had little anticipation. As far as they were concerned, Han Jingru would definitely lose. The only real question was how long he'd last before that happened.

"I'll give you a chance and let you throw the first punch. It'd be too shameful if you are defeated before you even get to make your first move," informed Yan Bingfeng to Han Jingru. The former's eyes shone with genuine pity, and it seemed like he'd honestly feel bad if he had Han Jingru failed too quickly.

Han Jingru grinned. *Yan Bingfeng is too proud. His ego will eventually destroy him even if we never cross paths and I don't defeat him.*

"Then, I won't hold back," said Han Jingru. He moved as quickly as lightning upon saying his piece, and he was standing in front of Yan Bingfeng in a blink of an eye.

Chapter 1185

Ad



The master sighed deeply upon seeing that. The competitors had only made one move each, but the master could already guess the end result of the competition.

The master had paid attention and examined Han Jingru's performance from the first match. Hence, he knew just how strong the latter was. *Han Jingru had definitely restrained himself when he made his first move. That is the only reason that Yan Bingfeng had blocked it.*

"The difference in strength is too much. The result is clear as day," said the master.

His students heard what their master said and misunderstood those words. They thought that their master was praising Yan Bingfeng, so they chuckled and said, "Master, the difference in their strengths is obvious from the start, isn't it? It's only a matter of time before our team wins."

The master grinned bitterly. *That arrogance... Yan Bingfeng has led them down an egotistical path, huh?*

Even the master had to admit that Yan Bingfeng was naturally gifted. That was why he had that level of strength in the first place, and faced very few challenges in his rise to fame. Unfortunately, that made him proud and haughty.

It's too bad that Yan Bingfeng will be defeated soon, and that his defeat will be devastating.

"This should serve as a warning and a reminder to all of you here. You people should never be arrogant, or you will suffer just as Yan Bingfeng's fate," advised the

master.

Those words stumped everyone around him. *It's obvious that Bingfeng is about to win this competition, so why is the master saying that? It sounds as if our master thinks that Bingfeng will lose.*

Arrogant? That is a privilege reserved for the strong. The weaklings have nothing to show off anyway.

The students thought that their arrogance was justified and acceptable because they had the strength to do so.

“Master, are you confused? Why do you sound like you’re saying that Bingfeng is about to lose?” asked a curious student.

“Han Jingru was just holding himself back. If he hadn’t, Yan Bingfeng would have lost the competition within one move,” explained the master.

In the boxing ring, Han Jingru didn’t just hold back a little. He was restricting himself tremendously, and that was the only reason why Yan Bingfeng was still in one piece.

Yan Bingfeng started attacking after blocking Han Jingru’s first move. However, neither Yan Bingfeng’s speed nor his strength could threaten Han Jingru. The difference in their strength was so obvious that Han Jingru seemed especially relaxed when he avoided Yan Bingfeng’s attack. It was as if Han Jingru was just taking a stroll in the garden.

To outsiders, Han Jingru looked like he was being forced into a corner and had no choice but to move around in

order to avoid being hit.

However, anyone with a martial arts training background could tell that Han Jingru was simply holding back. That was why Yan Bingfeng even had the chance to launch an attack in the first place. By then, it was ridiculously obvious that one was much stronger than the other.

Yan Bingfeng was stumped at that moment. *Han Jingru is too fast. Every single punch and move I made landed in the air. I am just wasting my energy without harming Han Jingru. Hell, if things go on like this, I will exhaust myself before I ever lay a hand on him!*

“You coward. Are you really that afraid of facing me head-on?”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Is that all you can do? Hide away like a chicken?”

The furious Yan Bingfeng howled at Han Jingru. The former knew that if things kept progressing that way, he would tire himself out soon. If that happened, he would be at Han Jingru’s mercy, so he had to get the boy to attack. *That is the only way I can find an opportunity to win this competition.*

Yan Bingfeng’s annoyed voice got most of the spectators to shout out for him.

After all, a sizeable portion of those spectators were Yan Bingfeng’s fans. Thus, they couldn’t bear to see him getting that frustrated. They immediately protested aloud.

“Fight back, you coward!”

“What’s the point of hiding away like that? Go run to your mommy if you’re afraid. We’re here for a show. Stop wasting our time.”

“Are you playing catch? This is a competition! Do you not have any skills at all?”

Countless spectators were dissing Han Jingru at that moment.

Yang Wanlin was stumped at that moment. *Han Jingru could have ended this competition in an instant. Why is he wasting his time like that and getting the crowd all riled up? Is he really not a match against Yan Bingfeng?*

That doesn’t seem likely either. Yan Bingfeng may be strong, but I can tell that Han Jingru is a lot more powerful.

“You don’t need to worry. Han Jingru is just chipping Yan Bingfeng’s confidence away. He doesn’t just want to win this competition. He wants to do it so beautifully that Yan Bingfeng is crushed and can never get back up again.”

When Yang Wanlin turned around, he was surprised to see Song Yun there.

As Yang Bin’s personal bodyguard, Song Yun stayed by Yang Bin’s side all the time.

If he’s here, then is Yang Bin here as well?

Song Yun knew who Yang Wanlin was looking for when he saw the latter scanning the place like that. Hence, he said, “Your Patriarch is not here. I dropped by because I am curious about how Han Jingru will perform today.”

“Do you think Han Jingru will win?” asked Yang Wanlin.

“This is just like how a cat devours a mouse. The cat is playing with its food now,” answered Song Yun before he chuckled. He could see the difference in strength between Yan Bingfeng and Han Jingru from the very beginning. The two were on completely different levels. *Besides, Han Jingru is not a typical fighter. He is a Platinum rank fighter from Apocalypse. It’s impossible for him to lose a fight against Yan Bingfeng.*

“And Han Jingru is that cat?” asked Yang Wanlin to confirm his suspicion.

“Exactly.”

Yang Wanlin stopped being so nervous after hearing

Song Yun's remark.

In the boxing ring, Yan Bingfeng was utterly frustrated and anger burned in his eyes. He assumed that it would be an easy victory and that he would be in control the whole time. *Instead, I am being played like a toy!* It felt horrible, and Yan Bingfeng was infuriated. His rationality was all gone, and he had completely lost his mind. At that state, Yan Bingfeng couldn't even see that he wasn't a match against Han Jingru at all.

"I never retaliated because I wanted to give you a shot at winning. If you really don't want to waste any time on this, then I will grant you your wish," said Han Jingru calmly as he stood in the same spot.

"Coward, why don't you stay put and stop avoiding my attacks?" challenged Yan Bingfeng through gritted teeth.

"Of course," replied Han Jingru.

Yan Bingfeng's expression instantly turned evil. He was confident that he could crush Han Jingru in just one punch if he can just Han Jingru.

"Remember your words, coward," said Yan Bingfeng before he shifted his stance and readied himself. Naturally, he put every ounce of strength he had into that last punch.

Han Jingru stood at that some spot and looked like he had no intention of moving away at all.

Yan Bingfeng had a cruel smile on his face. *I will win this competition if I can land this blow on him!*

Ad



Bang!

The fist landed on the Han Jingru's body, and a loud voice boomed.

Most of the spectators cheered loudly when they saw that Yan Bingfeng had finally landed his punch. They were convinced that the punch would defeat Han Jingru, and that the idol they had conjured up in their minds would remain powerful and intact.

However...

The fans soon realized that something was off.

Han Jingru remained standing!

Yan Bingfeng's punch didn't seem to hurt him at all.

It was so weak that he didn't even flinch, or frown upon being hit.

"Is that all you can do?" taunted Han Jingru with his brows raised.

"N-no. T-this is impossible," mumbled Yan Bingfeng in disbelief. That was his strongest move and most powerful punch, but Han Jingru wasn't affected at all, and Yan Bingfeng couldn't accept that reality.

"This is the difference between our strengths. I never fought back because you are simply too weak for me," shared Han Jingru calmly.

All of a sudden!

Yan Bingfeng's body moved like a kite with a broken string and flew backward.

No one saw what had happened.

All they saw was Yan Bingfeng's body crashing into the ring, and the rope curved in the most ridiculous way before Yan Bingfeng fell out of the boxing ring.

He couldn't move a muscle after falling onto the ground.

The spectators turned speechless.

Everything happened too quickly, and the fans couldn't register anything for a moment there.

That was understandable since everyone had been expecting Han Jingru to fall after being hit once.

Unfortunately, the event took a turn. Han Jingru didn't fall. Instead, Yan Bingfeng was rendered unconscious outside the boxing ring.

"D-did he throw a punch?"

"N-no, that was a kick."

"How could it have been a kick? I saw him punching with my own eyes. He knocked Yan Bingfeng out of the boxing ring with a punch."

"I saw his leg lifting."

No one could clearly see how Han Jingru attack, so they couldn't be certain if he threw a punch or a kick. Everyone had their own opinion on the matter, and no

one was willing to back down, so a debate started soon after.

The people from Tiandi Martial Arts Academy were all flabbergasted because, aside from the master, no one had ever imagined that thing would turn out that way. Yan Bingfeng was viewed as the top favorite to win the championship after all. *How could he have lost at the second round of the tournament? And to a tiny punk?*

Nevertheless, it didn't matter how much denial they were in. The truth was presented right in front of their eyes. Yan Bingfeng had indeed been defeated and was unconscious outside the boxing ring.

"B-Bingfeng lost!"

"Bingfeng actually lost, Master!"

The students all looked horrified, and none was willing to accept the truth.

However, the master remained calm because he had already expected all that. He also knew that it wouldn't have mattered even if Yan Bingfeng hadn't underestimated his opponent. The difference in their strengths was too obvious, and Yan Bingfeng was destined to lose the second he stepped into the boxing ring.

"What are you standing around for? Go and carry Bingfeng away," instructed the master to his students.

Almost everyone in the crowd still looked stunned. They didn't come around until the unconscious Yan Bingfeng was dragged away by the people from Tiandi Martial

Arts Academy. Only then did they realize what had happened.

“How could this be? Yan Bingfeng lost!”

“He is my idol... How could he have lost?”

“N-no, that is not possible. I cannot accept this. The guy must’ve done something underhanded. I demand that the Martial Arts Summit investigate this matter to the bottom of it!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru didn't receive any cheers or praise, despite winning the competition because the crazy fans had lost their minds. They assumed that Han Jingru must've cheated and didn't win the fight clean. As far as they were concerned, Yan Bingfeng was undefeatable and would definitely be the champion of the Martial Arts Summit. Many were unable to accept the reality that Yan Bingfeng had lost.

After Han Jingru and Shi Yan left the competition site, a bunch of wild fans showed up to bar their path.

The head of that little gang was a young woman with long, blue hair. She would've been a real beauty if she didn't have thick make-up on. All that cosmetic ended up concealing the natural beauty she had.

"Han Jingru, what underhanded method did you use?" demanded the woman in blue hair. She acted like a proud peacock when she spoke to Han Jingru.

Underhanded method? Seriously? We were fighting in the boxing ring with tons of witnesses around. There is no way either of us could cheat.

"If you're unhappy with the results, you can ask Yan Bingfeng to come and challenge me again. You might have to wait for some time, though. Given his current state, he will have to stay hospitalized for at least a year," said Han Jingru nonchalantly.

Han Jingru didn't kill Yan Bingfeng but injured him badly. His future in practicing martial arts would also likely be affected.

That being said, Yan Bingfeng was already lucky to have

survived a fight against Han Jingru.

The blue-haired woman was so furious that she gritted her teeth upon hearing that. As one of Yan Bingfeng's devoted fans, she could not put up with Han Jingru's arrogance.

Moreover, she knew that practicing martial arts had to be a daily routine or the practitioner's skills would deteriorate. *If Yan Bingfeng remains hospitalized for a year, his career as a martial arts practitioner will be over!*

"Han Jingru, I won't let this go. I will make sure that you pay for this."

The way the woman spoke suggested that she was from a powerful family. She would not have made threats like that if that wasn't the case.

However, Han Jingru didn't even give a sh*t about the Three Principal Families in Yan City, so naturally, he wasn't bothered by a young lady's words.

"I welcome you to come after me whenever and however you want, but I should warn you. Don't overstep, or the powerful family backing you up won't survive the consequences," reminded Han Jingru.

The young woman smiled in the brightest way.

My family can't deal with the consequences?

As far as the young woman was concerned, those words were nothing more than a ridiculous joke.

"Is there really anything that the Mo family can't deal

with, though?" bragged the young woman happily.

The Mo family? No way. What a coincidence!

Mo Yanshang is probably having a headache and wondering how he is going to return everything he stole from the Qi family. I can't believe that the younger generation of his family is dumb enough to come after the person who crushed him in the first place.

"You're a member of the Mo family?" blurted Han Jingru.

He asked because he was curious, but the young woman misinterpreted his intention. She thought he asked out of fear.

His fear is understandable. We are one of the Three Principal Families in Yan City, after all.

"Oh, are you scared? Well, I will consider letting you off the hook if you go kneel in front of Yan Bingfeng's hospital room. Do remember that this is not a promise, though. I will only consider granting you forgiveness," said the young woman.

"You better go home and ask Mo Yanshang who I am. He'll tell you what you should do," informed Han Jingru.

The young woman frowned. Mo Yanshang was her grandpa, and he was the one who spoiled her the most. *How does this punk know my grandpa?*

"Mo Yu, you don't think he actually knows your grandpa, do you?" asked one of Mo Yu's friends after Han Jingru left.

Chapter 1187

Ad



the ladies like him,” said Han Jingru.

Shi Yan rolled her eyes and refuted, “As if my son isn’t handsome? You are way better-looking than he is.”

Han Jingru, in his current state, was not handsome just yet. After all, he was still a little too young. However, he would become more and more handsome as he aged, and he would look better than most men. That was why Han Jingru would get into a lot of love-related problems in the future.

Back at the residential area.

Han Jingru saw Wu Xin before he even reached his front door.

Wu Xin was denied earlier. She was still curious about the result of the competition, so she had been sitting at the entrance of the residential area and waiting for Han Jingru.

The first thing Wu Xin did when she saw Han Jingru was to dash over.

“How was it? Did you win?” asked Wu Xin eagerly.

Han Jingru seemed a little helpless. *Looks like I should move out of this place sooner rather than later. Things will only become more murky between us if I don’t. In a way, that will hurt Wu Xin because there is definitely no future for us.*

“Of course, he won. My son will never lose,” answered Shi Yan proudly before Han Jingru even spoke up.

“Wow, that’s amazing,” exclaimed Wu Xin. She had already expected that, but she was disappointed about not being there in person. She would’ve truly enjoyed watching how Han Jingru toppled his opponent.

“We’re about to move soon. You should just go and live a normal life on your own,” said Han Jingru before he walked ahead immediately.

Shi Yan couldn’t help sighing at that. *Mercilessly crushing a young woman’s heart like that... He really doesn’t know how to be a gentleman, huh?*

Still, Shi Yan couldn’t decide for Han Jingru’s future or his love life and could only let him be.

“You’re a nice woman, Wu Xin, but Jingru is still too young for that. I can tell that you like him, but the two of you likely won’t get together in the future,” said Shi Yan to Wu Xin.

Wu Xin was stunned and stood still. She didn’t know why she developed feelings for Han Jingru either. Unfortunately, that fact could not change. All she could think about was Han Jingru when she closed her eyes at night. It was as if she was haunted.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"I can't believe that he lives in a dump like this."

Mo Yu and her girls showed up in the residential area shortly after Han Jingru got in. Obviously, they tailed him back to his place to seek vengeance on behalf of Yan Bingfeng.

"Rumor had it that he had been chased out of the Han family. Looks like that is true."

"Mo Yu, we're not actually going into a place like this, right? This is a place for the lesser people, and it is so dirty."

"She's right. I don't want to walk into a dump like that."

They were Mo Yu's friends, so naturally, their families were powerful as well. Their upbringing made it so that they had developed a distaste for poor residential areas like that. They were all rich heirs who grew up in huge mansions, so they were all pompous and had never been to a place like that before.

Mo Yu had her eyes on Wu Xin at that moment. *Han Jingru talked to her earlier so the two of them must be friends. There is a ridiculously easy way to get him to come to us.*

"There's no need for that. See that woman over there? She has to be Han Jingru's friend," said Mo Yu.

The other girls knew what Mo Yu was planning as soon as they heard that.

"Let's go. We can't let her get away."

"We'd lose our shot if she gets in."

"Let's go!" With that, they went for Wu Xin.

Wu Xin regained her composure after some time. She was about to go home when a few ladies in luxurious clothing blocked her path.

“What do you girls want?” asked Wu Xin in confusion. She didn’t recognize any of the ladies, so she didn’t understand why they were blocking her path.

“Come with us,” ordered Mo Yu calmly.

Wu Xin found that strange and asked, “Why?”

“You don’t need to know why,” replied Mo Yu.

Wu Xin rolled her eyes at the ladies. *How dumb do they have to be to think that I have to do as they requested?*

“Sorry, but I’m heading home,” said Wu Xin before she walked around to leave.

When Wu Xin walked past Mo Yu, the latter suddenly pulled the former’s hair. Mo Yu didn’t show mercy and pulled so hard that she got Wu Xin to yelp in pain.

“What are you doing? Let me go at once,” demanded Wu Xin.

Mo Yu pulled even harder and growled, “I didn’t want to make a move, b*tch, but you won’t do as I asked, so don’t blame me for this!”

After saying her piece, Mo Yu pulled Wu Xin along and dragged her to the car.

Wu Xin wanted to fight back, but Mo Yu’s grip on her hair was too tight. It threatened to pull Wu Xin’s scalp right out, so Wu Xin had no choice but to follow along.

Mo Yu didn’t let go of Wu Xin even after they got into the

car. It was as if the former was venting all her frustration she felt for Han Jingru on Wu Xin.

“What do you want?” demanded Wu Xin, who had a bad feeling about it. She didn’t know any of these ladies, but her instinct told her that they did not have good intentions. *I might be in danger if I am kept a hostage by these girls.*

“Shut up. You’re asking too many questions,” complained one of Mo Yu’s friends before she slapped Wu Xin right across the face.

These ladies were merciless when they attacked, and Wu Xin’s face reddened instantly.

“I will strip you naked and throw you off the car if you keep talking,” threatened Mo Yu through gritted teeth.

Wu Xin was scared speechless when she saw the hint of malice shining in Mo Yu’s eyes.

She knew that the lady in front of her was a person to be reckoned with. *The branded clothing proves that she is not from an ordinary family.*

However, Wu Xin didn’t know what she could possibly have done to offend those ladies. *Why are they targeting me?*

The car drove to a renowned luxurious area in Yan City. Only the extremely rich and powerful could afford a place in that area, and there were countless times when Wu Xin felt intimidated when she walked past the area. She never thought that she’d live to see the day she actually managed to get into it. That being said, the way she was brought over had frightened her.

Wu Xin was dragged into the house after the car was

parked in front of the villa.

The renovation could only be described as extravagant. It was the most luxurious place that Wu Xin had ever seen, and it got to the point where she couldn't even find the right words to describe it.

She was still reeling in her emotions when someone suddenly kicked her from behind. That got her to fall onto the floor. Only then did Wu Xin come around.

"You've never seen a place this luxurious before, have you? Is this heaven compared to the rotten place you live in?" asked Mo Yu, as she scoffed at Wu Xin. That villa was a gift from Mo Yanshang, and she was the only one allowed in there. Even the other members of the Mo family could not set foot in it.

"What do you girls want? Why are you doing this? We don't even know each other," said Wu Xin helplessly. She still had no idea what was going on. *I didn't make any mistake, and I am certainly not capable of pissing off rich brats like these. We've never even met before.*

"You don't know what's going on right now, but you'll figure it out soon enough. Your sin is that you have terrible friends," said Mo Yu in disdain. She was especially angry when she thought about how proud Han Jingru acted earlier. She wanted to seek vengeance for Yan Bingfeng.

To Mo Yu, Yan Bingfeng should be undefeatable. *It is impossible for that brat to beat Yan Bingfeng, especially when he is the notorious and worthless young master of the Han family.*

Mo Yu was convinced that Han Jingru cheated, and she was determined to find a way to prove it. *I must reveal the truth for Yan Bingfeng's sake.*

“Mo Yu, what do we do about her?” asked one of her friends.

Mo Yu shot a look at Wu Xin before saying, “I’ll go find some rope. Let’s tie her up and torture her for a few days for now.”

The other girls grinned simultaneously. They didn’t protest or say anything about Mo Yu’s plans, because they thought that it was just a normal thing to do.

Every single one of those girls had a powerful family shielding them. Hence, they had never been punished, even though they had committed countless crimes in the past. That got them to act more and more lawless. It wasn’t even their first kidnapping as they had always resorted to crimes like this every time a minor conflict arose.

At the same time in Han Jingru’s place.

“Are you sure you want to move?” asked Shi Yan.

“Yeah,” replied Han Jingru nonchalantly. *The only way to cut all ties with Wu Xin is to move out and leave her social circle entirely.*

“Must you be that cruel? She is just a young lady, and all she did was be nice to you,” said Shi Yan.

“Mom, I have my reasons for doing this. In a way, I am protecting her,” said Han Jingru.

Shi Yan saw how persistent Han Jingru was and guessed that there was no point in arguing. Hence, she simply said, “Okay, then you go ahead and do what you want. I was just reminding you, anyway. The most important thing is for you to live your life the way you want to.”

Han Jingru grinned and replied, "I promise I will explain everything to you in the future. By then, you will understand why I'm doing all this."

Shi Yan was curious, but Han Jingru had already promised that he would share everything in the future. That helped because she was never in a hurry to learn everything.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The way Shi Yan treated Han Jingru had changed drastically. Without Nangong Shuxian's influence, Shi Yan had been acting more and more like any mom. That proved that she never truly discriminated against Han Jingru.

Naturally, that was actually quite obvious early on. When Shi Yan moved to the villa in Genting, she regained her composure and found her way to act like a normal mother once more.

Han Jingru no longer needed to keep any secrets from Nangong Shuxian, so it was only natural for him to find a nicer place to move into. That was why Han Jingru listed his requirements when he called Qin Fu. He requested for a quiet and spacious place.

Qin Fu didn't dare to delay or procrastinate on the tasks assigned by Han Jingru. The former quickly found a villa that matched Han Jingru's requirements. The villa in question wasn't one of the best ones in Yan City, but they could move in immediately, and that would save Han Jingru a lot of time.

After learning the new place's address, Han Jingru and Shi Yan began packing their things.

They didn't actually have much to pack. All they needed to take was some clothes, so they didn't spend much time on them.

When the two of them walked out of the house with the luggage, Shi Yan asked Han Jingru, "Should we say goodbye to her?"

"No, that is not necessary. Let's go," answered Han Jingru.

Qin Fu was already waiting by the entrance when the

mother-son duo got near the entrance.

He went over to help Han Jingru and Shi Yan with their luggage as soon as he saw them.

Qin Fu knew all about Han Jingru's performance at the Martial Arts Summit. The way Han Jingru crushed Yan Bingfeng, in particular, had caused a tremendous commotion all around Yan City.

In his second battle, Han Jingru had defeated the person who was deemed most likely to be the champion. That got a lot of people flabbergasted.

"I've talked to the owner, boss. You guys can move in immediately, and I will settle the paperwork after that," reported Qin Fu.

Han Jingru was completely at ease with Qin Fu's competency because the latter had never made any mistakes before.

"How has the company been performing?" asked Han Jingru nonchalantly. He wasn't really worried, though, because his personal strength was strong enough that he didn't need to care about Dynasty's progress. As far as he was concerned, that company was more like an accessory.

"The Yang family has a few major projects in the works, and Dynasty has participated in all of them. Everything is progressing smoothly," replied Qin Fu. In the beginning, he couldn't generate much profit for the company, even though he worked endlessly every day. However, things had since changed. At that moment, all Qin Fu had to do was sit around and wait in his office. Countless collaborations and projects would flock to Dynasty all on their own. Qin Fu couldn't help sighing at that. *The change that Han Jingru brought to Dynasty is simply too*

astounding.

It also proved just how influential Han Jingru truly is.

“You can deal with all corporate matters from now on as you deem fit. You don’t even need to report to me unless something serious happens,” informed Han Jingru.

“Nothing will happen to the company, boss. Given your current status, no one would dare to mess with Dynasty,” said Qin Fu with a smile. He wasn’t joking or buttering anyone up. The truth was that no one would dare to go against Dynasty as long as Han Jingru remained in the city. At that point, all corporations, regardless of size and power, were all trying to get on Dynasty’s good side and collaborate with it. Qin Fu’s daily task was literally to pick and reject the less profitable projects.

Many companies had sent personal gifts to Qin Fu in an effort to bribe him into letting them work with Dynasty. Qin Fu rejected every single one of them.

Monetary seduction did not work on Qin Fu because he knew all too well that his power came from Han Jingru. Hence, he would never betray Han Jingru or do anything vile from behind the scenes.

Shi Yan couldn’t help but sigh when she heard their conversation.

If Nangong Shuxian hadn’t insisted on handing the entire Han family to Han Yu, will the Han family still fall to this extent? What would have happened if Han Jingru were the one entrusted with all that instead?

Take Dynasty for an instant. If those resources had been invested into the Han family, would the Han family even need to worry about rising back up to the top?

It was undeniable that Nangong Shuxian had made a terrible mistake. What was worse was that she still refused to acknowledge that. *I wonder how long it'd take for her to accept that Han Jingru is the one who can lead the Han family into a glorious future.*

"What's wrong?" asked Han Jingru when he saw how sorrowful his mom looked.

Shi Yan shook her head and smiled exasperatedly before replying, "I was just wondering how long it'd take Nangong Shuxian to realize that she was wrong."

Han Jingru smiled. Nangong Shuxian was more stubborn than a regular person, and it'd be difficult to get her to admit her own mistake.

However, it is not completely impossible. Perhaps she will finally see her mistake once Nangong Boling shows up. After all, the Nangong family holds true power all over the world. Nangong Shuxian would have no reason to discriminate against me if Nangong Boling bows down to me.

"She'll accept it," said Han Jingru calmly.

The environment offered by the villa was a thousand times better than the one offered by the poor residential area. It didn't matter to Han Jingru either way, because he had already gotten used to living in a terrible place when he was staying in the Han residence.

However, Shi Yan had different thoughts on the matter. The poor residential area was too different from the Han residence, and moving back into a pleasant environment was a wonderful experience for her.

"Please call me at any hour if there is anything you need, boss," said Qin Fu.

“Sure. I have no other requests for now. Please return to your work,” informed Han Jingru.

“Understood.”

Shi Yan and Han Jingru chose their rooms and unpacked after Qin Fu left.

Han Jingru didn't have much to unpack. He went to the balcony on the second floor after he put his clothes away.

It was likely that the previous owner loved the balcony. That was why he custom-made a spot especially for enjoying tea. He even had a swing set installed and set up a small pond with fish in it.

Han Jingru was about to relax there when he heard the phone ringing.

“What's wrong?” asked Han Jingru. His tone carried a hint of concern because the call was from Qi Bingying.

“Mo Yanshang called my dad earlier and asked us to head over to the Mo residence,” said Qi Bingying. She sounded like she was asking a question when she shared that news with Han Jingru, though. She called Han Jingru because he didn't know whether he should head over.

The fact that Mo Yanshang contacted Qi Donglin at such an hour meant the former had finally made a decision. After the fight between Han Jingru and Yan Bingfeng concluded, it was probable that the sly old man learned his lesson. He finally realized that he couldn't afford to go against Han Jingru.

“Tell them you'd be there tomorrow. I'll head over with you guys,” said Han Jingru.

“Sure,” replied Qi Bingying simply.

“By the way, how’s the new place? Are you used to it?” asked Han Jingru nonchalantly.

“If you really care about me, why haven’t you come to visit?”



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Qi Bingying's words got Han Jingru to shut up. He didn't know how to answer that question because he only asked as a friend. He didn't expect Qi Bingying to ask a question like that.

Han Jingru wasn't repulsed by Qi Bingying or anything, but he knew that his wife would always be Su Yimo. He may have been reborn, in a sense, but that didn't mean that any of those things would change. Moreover, Su Yimo was the reincarnation of someone who was inexplicably connected to him, and that was something Han Jingru could not neglect.

"I'll hang up now if there's nothing else you'd like to share," said Han Jingru before he quickly disconnected the line. He didn't dare to waste even a second on the call.

"What's wrong?" asked Shi Yan, who happened to go to the balcony at that time. She saw how nervous Han Jingru looks, so she asked curiously. She rarely saw Han Jingru with that look on his face.

"I-it's nothing," lied Han Jingru as he pretended to be calm.

"Nothing?" said Shi Yan while looking suspiciously at Han Jingru. His expression revealed that he was clearly hiding something. *How can there be nothing?*

"Could it be... Did that girl call you?" guessed Shi Yan. She had always been suspicious about why Han Jingru suddenly wanted to help the Qi family. He had claimed that he was not in love with Qi Bingying, but Shi Yan could tell that everything stemmed from that little girl.

"What girl?" asked Han Jingru while looking lost.

"Oh, stop pretending. You're my son. I can see through

your lies,” said Shi Yan. She acted like she could see through Han Jingru simply because she was the adult who had experienced it all.

“I wasn’t lying. I honestly have no idea who you’re talking about,” replied Han Jingru. He wasn’t an actual, immature kid, so naturally, he wouldn’t be conned into confessing everything just like that.

Shi Yan sighed and said, “I finally understand why you are so mean towards Wu Xin. Turns out, someone else has already captivated your heart.”

Someone else has already captivated my heart... Well, she’s not wrong about that. That truly was the reason why he didn’t want to have too much interaction with Wu Xin.

However, Shi Yan had made a mistake about the person who held Han Jingru’s heart. That was understandable since she hadn’t learned about Su Yimo.

“Mom, should we hire a housekeeper? This place is huge, and we will have to maintain it somehow,” said Han Jingru trying to change the topic.

“It’s fine. I can handle them,” replied Shi Yan. The Han residence had a lot of servants, so she didn’t need to clean the place at all. That gave her a relaxed lifestyle, but it also took the fun of life out of her.

She had since spent some time with Han Jingru and had started cleaning the house and cooking. To her surprise, all these activities had made her feel like her life was more meaningful. It’d tire her out, but she was happy.

“Are you sure?” asked Han Jingru suspiciously. *This place isn’t like the last one we had. The size alone is a few times bigger.* Han Jingru genuinely suspected Shi Yan’s words and capability when she claimed that she could

deal with all that.

Shi Yan sensed Han Jingru's disbelief, so she walked to him and pinched his ear before demanding, "What? Are you questioning my capabilities?"

"N-no, I was just trying to make sure," answered Han Jingru. He quickly apologized. Aside from Shi Yan, the only other person who dared to do that to Han Jingru was probably Su Yimo.

Shi Yan pretended to be fierce when she pulled his ear. However, she didn't actually pull that hard before she spoke threateningly, "Do you really think you are allowed to underestimate your mom? Focus on dealing with your own matters, and leave the wellbeing of the house to me."

"Okay, yes, ma'am. My mom is the strongest person ever. Satisfied?" said Han Jingru as he grinned exasperatedly.

The mother-son duo rarely got to interact like that in the past because Nangong Shuxian had always tied Shi Yan's hand and imposed negative thoughts on her. As a result, she didn't have much time to spend with Han Jingru.

At that moment, Shi Yan finally understood what it felt like to be a mom interacting with her son.

Han Jingru was equally happy about it. He felt like it was worth living through his life again just to experience that warmth.

That night, Shi Yan cooked two additional dishes to celebrate the occasion of moving into a new place.

Shi Yan's cooking had undeniably improved by a lot, and that showed just how talented she truly was at that.

Han Jingru visited Yang Wanlin's villa the following morning.

The Qi family was relatively safe. No one dared to disturb them, but it had nothing to do with the place they were living in. Mo Yanshang simply didn't dare to go after them. Given his powers, it would be easy for him to track them down no matter where they went.

"Why did Mo Yanshang ask us to go to the Mo residence, Han Jingru?" asked Qi Donglin as he was worried.

Han Jingru still remembered how proud Qi Donglin had acted the first time he brought his family over to the Mo residence. *How did he turn so fearful so quickly?*

"I'm guessing he asked you over to discuss the matters of returning everything he stole from you," answered Han Jingru with a smile.

"Will he really be okay with that?" asked Qi Donglin, who didn't quite believe it. He knew what kind of man Mo Yanshang really was, so he didn't believe that the sly man would actually honor the deal he made with Han Jingru.

Hence, Qi Donglin saw the invitation as The Last Supper.

Qi Donglin was too angry to think straight when he went to the Mo residence the last time. That was why he had his family with him when he dove into danger. He had since calmed down and learned how stupid his actions were then. He almost got himself hurt and dragged his family to destruction with him.

"Weren't you so strong that you barged right into the Mo residence the last time? Why are you so scared now?" asked Han Jingru while grinning.

Qi Donglin was embarrassed. "Men tend to do irrational things in a fit of anger, but I am calm now."

Looks like Qi Donglin has developed some self-awareness after being beaten up.

"Don't worry. I'll be there, and Mo Yanshang won't dare to lay a finger on you," reassured Han Jingru.

It was rather irrational to place that much trust on a kid.

However, Han Jingru's performance in the Martial Arts Summit and at the Mo residence had proven that he was capable enough to speak like that.

The current situation also made it such that Qi Donglin's only option was to place his trust in Han Jingru.

"Okay. When do we leave?" asked Qi Donglin.

"We can leave right away."

Qi Donglin didn't plan on taking Ouyang Fei or Qi Bingying over. After all, going to the Mo residence was equivalent to venturing into the lion's den. He didn't want to risk his family if things went sideways.

However, Qi Bingying had her own ideas and did not plan to stay put.

"I want to go too," said Qi Bingying.

"Bingying, be good and stay home. Daddy will be back soon," cooed Qi Donglin.

Qi Bingying turned to Han Jingru. Her eyes shone with persistence when she repeated, "I want to go too."

Han Jingru grinned in exasperation. He knew just how

stubborn she could be because she never gave up, despite having been rejected repeatedly.

“Let’s take her along. I promise that no one will get hurt.”



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Qi Bingying had absolute faith in Han Jingru's words. Back then in the Mo family, the three of them wouldn't have been able to get away safely if he hadn't stepped in.

However, in Qi Donglin's eyes, no matter how powerful Han Jingru was, he was only a kid. *Last time, he managed to gain the upper hand, because Mo Yanshang had his guard down. But now, the latter probably has a secret plan up his sleeve. If I bring my wife and daughter along, it'll do them no good if the situation turns nasty.*

"Listen to me, Bingying. Wait for me at home, I'll be back soon," Qi Donglin said.

Han Jingru smiled nonchalantly. *It looks like Qi Donglin doesn't trust me. But that's understandable since it involves the safety of his wife and daughter. As a husband and a father, it's only fair that he feels concerned. But the trust in Qi Bingying's gaze surprises me. She doesn't seem the slightest bit worried about going to the Mo residence.*

"Bingying, stay at home and keep me company," Ouyang Fei advised.

Qi Bingying shook her head and said adamantly, "I want to be there."

"Why?" Han Jingru asked with a curious expression. Despite her inability to help, she insisted on going with him stubbornly, and that really baffled him.

"I'd like to see what else you can do to the Mo family and how capable you actually are," Qi Bingying replied enthusiastically.

Han Jingru was dumbstruck by her answer. *Is that why she wants to go with me? Her reason is silly yet hilarious.*

"Girl, you're making me worried. Do you know how

dangerous it is to go to the Mo residence?" Qi Donglin asked exasperatedly. In order to train his daughter to be independent, he had allowed her to make decisions on her own since young, while he guided her by giving her advice and suggestions.

Up until now, Qi Bingying had never let her father down. Every decision she made was sensible, and she was way more mature than her peers. But this time, Qi Donglin felt that her insistence on tagging along wasn't well thought out.

"Dad, I don't think it's that dangerous. Isn't the Mo family only going to return something to us? How is that dangerous?" Qi Bingying refuted.

Return something to us? I'm not sure if Mo Yanshang is really going to do that. For all I know, he isn't someone who will compromise easily. I'm tagging along with Han Jingru only to try my luck.

"We've wasted a lot of time, and I have something else to attend to today. Let me know soon as possible." Han Jingru didn't want to decide on behalf of Qi Donglin. As the father of Qi Bingying, he had the final say.

"Let's go," the girl announced right after Han Jingru spoke, leaving her father with no choice.

Qi Donglin breathed a helpless sigh. *My daughter can be as stubborn as a mule. Nothing I say can ever change her mind.*

Watching his daughter heading out the door, Qi Donglin said to his wife, "Don't worry, I'll bring our daughter back safely."

Although Ouyang Fei was worried, she could do nothing other than to nod her head in agreement.

With that, the three of them walked out of the villa and hailed a cab.

Qi Donglin sat in the passenger seat, while Han Jingru and Qi Bingying were in the backseat.

On the way, Qi Bingying stole glances at Han Jingru from time to time. Though he noticed it, he didn't point it out. Although she had once loved him and been willing to sacrifice everything for his sake, she was still a little girl now. Han Jingru couldn't bring the affection of his previous life into his current life.

"I know who you are," the girl said out of the blue.

Han Jingru was stupefied for a moment. *Does she know about the things of the future?*

"What do you mean by that?" he asked.

"I know you're from the Han family, and they call you the worthless young master," Qi Bingying answered.

Discreetly, Han Jingru heaved a sigh of relief. *I see. I thought she knows about the things that are going to happen in the future, and my rebirth has somehow affected her.*

"Many people know this, so there's nothing weird about it," he replied.

"How is that not weird?" The girl's brows knitted together.

"Huh? Is it weird?" The boy stared at her with a puzzled look. *I don't see how that's weird.*

"Of course it is. Why do they call you worthless when you're so capable? Is your family blind or something?" Qi Bingying asked in all seriousness, gazing at him intently.

Han Jingru was amused. *I guess she really means it from the bottom of her heart. Otherwise, how can her gaze be so solemn? The truth is that no one in the Han family is blind, neither is Nangong Shuxian. It's just that she has made a mistake, but she refuses to correct it, much less admit it.*

"An outstanding person will not necessarily be accepted by everyone," Han Jingru said.

"Why is that so?" The girl glanced at him in confusion.

"Because... Because they've made up their mind that I'm a worthless piece of junk. Even if they're wrong, they are unwilling to admit it," he explained.

"Why don't they admit it?" Qi Bingying continued to ask.

Just when Han Jingru was about to explain it, it struck him that there was no end to Qi Bingying's questions, and he could not possibly answer them all.

"How old are you this year?" He changed the subject, as he didn't want to waste time dwelling on those questions.

"Ten years old." Qi Bingying paused briefly before adding, "You haven't told me why they don't admit it."

Han Jingru went speechless. *I didn't know she's such a curious girl when she's young. Where does she get all these questions from?*

In fact, when Qi Bingying grew up, she was equally clingy and determined the second she set her heart on something. There were several times she got hold of Han Jingru, and she almost successfully forced herself on him.

“You’re still young, so you’ll understand these things as time goes.” That was the only thing he could say.

The girl pursed her lips, obviously displeased as she grumbled, “Are you that old then?”

Hearing her question, Han Jingru turned to look out the window. *I’m not very much older than her now, so I indeed have no right to lecture her.*

In the passenger seat, Qi Donglin’s lips curled up instinctively as he sensed Han Jingru’s helplessness. He often felt the same too whenever his daughter’s questions rendered him speechless. Never had he thought that there would be another person going through the exact situation.

“We’re almost there. I can’t pull over at the entrance, so I can only let you get out of the car here,” the driver said suddenly.



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After getting out of the car, Qi Donglin seemed particularly agitated. Even his expression turned rigid.

On the contrary, the little girl appeared completely at ease. None of them could tell that whether she was truly fearless or being oblivious to their situation.

But there was one thing for sure, Qi Bingying was oozing courage with Han Jingru by her side. Deep down, she had an unwavering trust in him, and that's why she had no fear.

"Han Jingru, something just doesn't feel right. Are you sure this is safe?" Qi Donglin asked sheepishly.

"Are you so scared when you're not angry?" Han Jingru asked with a smile. Now Qi Donglin looked nothing like the man who barged into the Mo residence with an unflinching and audacious demeanor the last time.

Qi Donglin looked away with embarrassment. Without fury, all he could feel was a crippling fear coursing through his body. In retrospect, he still felt that it was so impetuous of him to go to barge into the Mo residence.

"Don't worry. No one can hurt you both when I'm around," he reassured.

If Mo Yanshang is smart, he'll return to the Qi Family everything he has taken from them. Even if he does set a trap, no one on earth can match against me now. If worse comes to worst, I'll put up a fight then.

As they arrived at the entrance, the door swung open automatically.

Han Jingru glanced up at the surveillance cameras. *I bet Mo Yanshang is watching us right now.*

“Stop right there!” A loud voice sounded right when he was about to go in.

Turning his head around in response, the boy saw Mo Yu stomping toward them in anger.

She had just returned from her secret base after torturing Wu Xin again. When she arrived home, she was surprised to see Han Jingru standing right outside the gate.

“Han Jingru, how dare you come to my house!” The girl gritted her teeth while glaring at him. She got to know from the hospital that Yan Bingfeng was critically injured. It was uncertain when he would recuperate, so the Martial Arts Summit would certainly bite the dust. As a result, she harbored a deep resentment toward Han Jingru as though he killed her father.

“Mo Yanshang invited me. Ask him if you have a problem with this,” he said indifferently.

“Bull****! There’s no way my Grandpa will want to meet a nobody like you,” the girl replied with disdain. *My Grandpa is the most prominent figure in the business industry of Yan City. Usually, those bootlickers have to make appointments if they want to see my Grandpa. Who the hell does Han Jingru think he is?*

“So are you going to stop me now?” he asked with a smile.

Standing right in front of Han Jingru, Mo Yu said with a haughty face. “This is my house. What can you do to me if I don’t let you in? Are you going to hit me?”

The boy shrugged helplessly. *Of course, I’ll never harm a defenseless girl like her.*

“Mo Yanshang, why don’t you come out to usher me in? Otherwise, your beloved granddaughter is going to bring you a lot of troubles,” Han Jingru said while looking at the surveillance cameras.

Mo Yanshang must’ve seen me coming since the door opened itself. Then, he should get this troublesome girl out of my way.

Mo Yu laughed scornfully the moment she heard him. *Did he just ask my Grandpa to come out to take him in? Is he delusional? Does he think that he’s a big shot or something?*

“Han Jingru, are you kidding me? Why will my Grandpa come out to welcome you?” Mo Yu sneered.

“You’ll find out soon,” he answered.

The girl was disgruntled. *I just can’t stand his arrogant face, especially when I think of Yan Bingfeng’s injury.*

Consumed by rage, Mo Yu said coldly, “Han Jingru, do you know that you’ve ruined this year’s Martial Arts Summit?”

“There’s no mercy in the boxing ring,” he answered impassively.

“Nice one. I’ll make you regret this,” the girl said. However, she didn’t reveal that she had captured Wu Xin, as she was not done venting her anger on that poor woman.

“Give it some thoughts before doing anything rashly. Think about whether you’re competent enough before provoking me. Otherwise, you may not be able to bear the consequences,” Han Jingru advised her. He knew these rich kids’ way of taking revenge. Having

strong backups, they could do almost everything as they pleased.

Mo Yu sniggered at him. *As a daughter of the Mo family, how am I not competent enough to provoke a useless boy from the Han family?*

Right then, Mo Yanshang finally showed up at the door.

“Mo Yu, what are you doing?” Mo Yanshang asked.

The girl jolted at his grandfather’s voice. Though Mo Yanshang doted on her, he was very strict with her as well.

“Grandpa, why are you here?” she asked in a panic.

“Han Jingru is my friend. How could you block him at the door?” the man rebuked his granddaughter.

Mo Yu’s jaw dropped. *What? Grandpa really invited this guy? How is that possible? Why is Grandpa so close to this kid?*

“Grandpa, I... I didn’t,” Mo Yu denied.

“Go back to your room if you have nothing else to do,” Mo Yanshang commanded.

Obediently, Mo Yu nodded. Apprehension shot through her as she scurried away. *If Han Jingru is really that close to my Grandpa, what will he do once he found out what I did to Wu Xin?*

“I’m sorry that my granddaughter has troubled you,” Mo Yanshang said with an apologetic expression.

The man’s reaction surprised Qi Donglin. *Wow. He’s so courteous to Han Jingru. Why is a high-status man like*

him treating a kid with so much respect?

“Mo Yanshang, your granddaughter is an avid fan of Yan Bingfeng, so she resents me for defeating her idol. You’re the one who started it,” Han Jingru said in a flat tone, implying that Mo Yanshang had caused his granddaughter to hold grudges against him by arranging Yan Bingfeng to be his rival.

Mo Yanshang didn’t say a word about this matter. Though Han Jingru was right, the man would never admit it in front of him.

“Let’s go inside. I’ve prepared tea for you. We can talk later over a cup of tea,” the man said.

As everyone went in and took a seat, Mo Yanshang personally poured a cup of tea for Han Jingru, ignoring Qi Bingying and her father. That made Qi Donglin feel a little awkward.

Why does Han Jingru get to drink a cup of tea while I’m only allowed to look at it?



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Nonetheless, Qi Donglin didn't feel indignant, as he knew his limits. If it weren't for Han Jingru, he wouldn't even have the courage to come to the Mo residence, let alone deserve to drink that cup of tea.

After taking a sip of the tea, Han Jingru struck up a conversation. "You've given up so easily. Mo Yanshang, this is not like you at all." He went straight to the point, confronting the old man about the arrangement for Yan Bingfeng to be his rival.

Since Han Jingru had cut to the chase, Mo Yanshang laughed and admitted it openly. "Your capability is beyond my expectation. Yan Bingfeng isn't the strongest one in Yan City, but he's the best among the young generation. Yet, you're even younger than him."

Pausing briefly, the man continued, "The future belongs to young people like you. I can't imagine how powerful you'll be when you reach your full potential. After weighing my options, I think my family shouldn't be at odds with you."

Mo Yanshang didn't compromise with Han Jingru only because of a competition, but he had thought far ahead. After all, he was getting older now. It was only because of him that the Mo family was thriving. Once he breathed his last, the status of the Mo family in Yan City would certainly be affected. Other than that, there was no one in the family who qualified to pick up the responsibilities. He wouldn't be surprised if the younger ones squandered all the family's wealth and assets after he passed away. And he was unwilling to let this happen.

The Mo family might continue to prosper if they managed to get acquainted with Han Jingru.

Listening in silence, Han Jingru didn't say a word, as he could tell that the man had something else to say.

“Not only will I let go of everything I got from the Qi family, but I’ll also help them with their development. However, I have one condition,” Mo Yanshang added.

“Tell me about it.”

“I hope you can be the son-in-law of the Mo family. There are many beautiful girls in my family, and you can choose whoever you want. They’re still young now. If their appearances change when they grow up, you can choose again,” Mo Yanshang proposed.

Han Jingru almost spat out the tea in his mouth.

I have expected him to set a condition. But never in my wildest dream had I thought that it would be this. I can choose anyone I want. And if I can change to another girl in case I’m not satisfied with the one I’ve chosen. What kind of odd mentality is this?

“Ahem! Mo Yanshang, are you trying to make me choke to death?” Astonished, Han Jingru gaped at the man.

“I have to make sure that my family will continue to flourish. And only you can ensure the success and prosperity of the Mo family.” The man’s expression was solemn. Not a hint of frivolity could be seen on his face. This was the most reliable solution he could think of. To him, collaborating with Dynasty wasn’t the best way. Only by establishing a familial bond would he be able to have Han Jingru to work wholeheartedly for the Mo family.

“That’s impossible.” Han Jingru rejected him without hesitation. His wife was Su Yimo. Even if he were reborn, he would never change this reality. Hence, any other woman was out of the question.

“Why not?” Mo Yanshang asked in bewilderment. *How*

Does that count as paying a great price?" the boy said lightly.

Mo Yanshang's expression turned grim at his words. *Han Jingru is being so curt. He completely disregards me.*

"I know you have something else up your sleeve. Stop wasting time and just show it now," the boy said directly.

Mo Yanshang did have a backup plan, but that would be his last resort. He preferred to work together with Han Jingru instead, as he knew the world would eventually be in the hands of the younger generation. Hence, offending an exceptionally gifted teenager was not a good thing, unless he could kill him.

Nonetheless, Mo Yanshang had no confidence in doing this at all. He even consulted the most accomplished martial arts master in Yan City, who couldn't even tell of how capable Han Jingru was. That's why he dared not make any move hastily.

"Han Jingru, is there no more room for discussion?" the man asked.

"No," he replied without a second thought.

Qi Donglin wanted to remind Han Jingru not to go overboard, because Mo Yanshang was obviously on the verge of losing his temper. Infuriating this man was like digging their own graves. Yet, Qi Donglin had no say in this matter.

"Alright. Since you don't agree to be the son-in-law of the Mo family, how about a thirty-year partnership agreement?" Mo Yanshang gave in, refusing to go against Han Jingru, as he recalled the words of the most accomplished martial arts master in Yan City.

The man told him that perhaps no one could withstand the true power hidden within Han Jingru.

Knowing how strong the martial arts master was, Mo Yanshang was blown away.

“An agreement?” Han Jingru couldn’t help but chuckle. “Mo Yanshang, you’re from the underworld. Does agreement mean anything to you?”

Han Jingru paused for a second. “Anyway, don’t worry. I’ll not one who will go back on my words. As long as the Mo family stays in line, I’ll help your family maintain its foothold.”



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Han Jingru didn't cave in, despite Mo Yanshang's compromise. However, the latter wasn't mad, because he grasped the meaning of the boy's words.

The thirty-year partnership agreement was only a formality, and it wouldn't actually guarantee anything. With his unparalleled capabilities, even if Han Jingru broke his promise, the Mo family wouldn't be able to do anything about it.

Besides, Mo Yanshang was a man who couldn't care less about any agreement. Back then, the man had ruined countless agreements and collaborations in order to get to where he was now.

As a result, Mo Yanshang was willing to take a leap of faith, since Han Jingru promised that he wouldn't put the Mo family in a tight spot, as long as they didn't get under his skin.

"I trust you, Han Jingru," the man said.

Qi Donglin's jaw dropped as he gawked at the two.

Mo Yanshang has already given in twice, so Han Jingru should just accept his offer. I thought the man would get mad if the boy rejected him again. I can't believe that Mo Yanshang is fine with it. What is going on? This man seems to have turned over a new leaf. I feel as if I don't know him.

Turning to look at Han Jingru's gaze, Qi Donglin's expression grew solemn. *I believe Han Jingru is the ultimate reason why Mo Yanshang is willing to relent once again and settle for less. Perhaps, he makes Mo Yanshang feel threatened for some reason. Even so, he's still a kid, despite his fighting skill. Why does an old hand like Mo Yanshang fear him? Could it be that even Mo Yanshang can't find anyone who is able to deal with him?*

Deep in contemplation, Qi Donglin just couldn't wrap his head around Mo Yanshang's response.

There's one thing I'm absolutely sure about, that this boy named Han Jingru isn't as simple as I thought. If I can get close to him, I'm sure the Qi family will have a better prospect.

"Mo Yanshang, I didn't expect you to give in so easily. Is there something else that I don't know about?" Han Jingru questioned the man inquisitively.

Mo Yanshang's expression froze, and his body went stiff. Like he said, the younger generation would rise to rule the world one day, and Han Jingru was the brightest of them all. As a result, Mo Yanshang had to befriend him out of the consideration of the future and development of the Mo family.

But that was just one of the reasons why he did so, as he had also run a background check on the boy.

During the Chamber of Commerce banquet, the Yao family was the first one to stand up for Han Jingru. It was suspicious in Mo Yanshang's eyes, so he started investigating the boy. Sure enough, he discovered some astonishing information.

Yao Hanxing offended a foreign assassin organization. Despite using all his connections, he couldn't get himself out of trouble. Even so, this issue seemed to have resolved itself in the end. After paying a huge sum, Mo Yanshang found out that it had something to do with Han Jingru.

Besides, the Yang family's attitude toward Han Jingru was odd as well.

Yang Bin was no ordinary man. Why did he pin all his

hopes on Han Jingru for no reason during the Martial Arts Summit then?

Some said that he either lost his mind or became old and confused. At last, it was proven that Yang Bin wasn't insane, as Han Jingru was obviously going to win the championship in the Martial Arts Summit.

These were exactly the two reasons why Mo Yanshang valued him so much.

Both the Yang family and the Mo family were two of the Three Principal Families. There must be a reason why the Yang family prioritized the boy.

"The Yang family and the Yao family," Mo Yanshang replied.

Though he was beating around the bush, Han Jingru immediately understood him at the mention of the two families.

With a half-smile, the boy said, "Don't worry. I will never lay a finger on anyone, unless the person has offended me."

Mo Yanshang nodded. He had no other choice but to trust Han Jingru.

The old man knew that his decision might seem unbelievable or absurd to many people. Some would probably spread rumors behind his back, but he believed that Han Jingru's potential would be revealed one day, and everyone would know that he had made a wise move.

Just how capable was Han Jingru to stand against an entire assassin organization when he was only a kid?

Perhaps the Martial Arts Summit was only a game to him.

Mo Yanshang stood up and marched over to Qi Donglin. "Please head home first. I'll put your company in order before returning it and all the other resources to you."

Qi Donglin was stunned by his words. *Is that all? This is much quicker than I thought. And nothing dangerous happened too.*

"Mr. Mo, are you serious?" Qi Donglin asked in disbelief.

With a rueful smile, the man replied, "I dare not mess with you in front of him. The Mo family is nothing in his eyes."

Qi Donglin let out a gasp of amazement. *Who exactly is Han Jingru that this man says such words?*

"Sure, I'll take my leave now," Qi Donglin said, walking away at once.

"Hold on. Let's go home together," Han Jingru said.

A sense of uneasiness shot through Qi Donglin out of the blue. Never had he thought that things would turn out this way, as he was clueless about Han Jingru's capabilities, treating the boy as if he was only a skilled fighter.

But now Qi Donglin dared not look down on Han Jingru anymore. He was afraid that he might accidentally cross this enigmatic and formidable boy. Then, he would be doomed.

"Alright..." Qi Donglin replied.

Before Han Jingru left, he reminded Mo Yanshang, "The

girl named Mo Yu is a devoted fan of Yan Bingfeng, and the man lost to me, so she's unhappy and wants to take revenge on me. I feel compelled to remind you, so that things won't get out of hand."

With a solemn face, Mo Yanshang nodded in acknowledgement. Han Jingru's kind reminder was the proof that he didn't want to get into any conflict with the Mo family. Hence, Mo Yanshang was taking it seriously.

"Don't worry, I'll explain everything to her, and I won't let her cause you any trouble," the man promised.

Han Jingru nodded faintly and walked away.

Right after he left, Mo Yanshang made his way to Mo Yu's room.

But the room was in a mess, and all her belongings were smashed into pieces on the floor.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The wreckage in the place was a testament to Mo Yu's ill temper. She seemed unbothered about how expensive or precious the broken items were. In her eyes, money was but a number. What more, she was born into wealth and lived a lavish lifestyle with no problems.

“What in the world are you doing?” Mo Yanshang yelled.

Mo Yu burst into tears. She knew that tears were her best weapon, especially toward her grandfather.

“Grandpa, how could you let Han Jingru into our house? Don't you know about what he did?” Mo Yu pleaded with a whiny voice.

“Are you talking about him defeating Yan Bingfeng at the Martial Arts Summit?” Mo Yanshang asked, unmoved.

“Defeat?” Mo Yu frowned at the mention of the word. “I wouldn't act like this if he had won Yan Bingfeng fair and square. Isn't it obvious that he played dirty? How could a loser like him defeat

Yan Bingfeng? And how did Yan Bingfeng even become his opponent? There must be a despicable scoundrel pulling the strings in the dark!” she gushed.

Unbeknownst to her, the person whom she called a despicable scoundrel was standing right before her. Mo Yanshang was the one who arranged for Yan Bingfeng to be Han Jingru’s opponent for that match.

“Played dirty? How would you know anything about that? Do you truly believe Yan Bingfeng to be invincible?” Mo Yanshang continued, his voice sounding eerily calm.

“Of course, he is,” Mo Yu replied without a second thought. Yan Bingfeng was the only one who deserved to win the Martial Arts Summit that year in her heart. On the other hand, Han Jingru was just a good-for-nothing bum whom the Han family had cast aside.

“Cut the crap. Nobody can play dirty in the boxing ring. Yan Bingfeng lost because he was not strong enough. You can’t blame Han Jingru

for that,” Mo Yanshang said.

Mo Yu shook her head and retorted, “That’s not possible! Yan Bingfeng shouldn’t have lost. It must have been a set-up! Grandpa, we need to find out who’s behind this scheme!”

As Mo Yu spoke, she walked closer to Mo Yanshang with a woeful look on her face.

“It’s me,” Mo Yanshang cut her off coldly. Mo Yanshang knew that there was no point in hiding the truth any longer.

Han Jingru had made it really clear. As long as the Mo family stayed in line, he would not lay a finger on them. Telling Mo Yu what truly happened would prevent her from acting rashly and provoking Han Jingru, which could bring disastrous consequences.

Mo Yu was speechless.

Never in her wildest dreams did she imagine things to turn out like that. She was so certain that Han Jingru played dirty to make Yan

Bingfeng his opponent and then cheated during their battle to win.

What... what is Grandpa talking about?

“Grandpa... you must be joking. Why... why would you do such a thing?” Mo Yu’s voice cracked.

“I needed to find out how strong Han Jingru actually is, for various reasons. And so, I made sure that Yan Bingfeng became his opponent in that match. I wanted the fight with Yan Bingfeng to become a test of Han Jingru’s strength!” Mo Yanshang explained.

“And as it turns out, Yan Bingfeng is no match against Han Jingru. This is why we need to be careful around Han Jingru from now on,” he continued.

Upon hearing her grandfather’s words, Mo Yu’s mind went blank.

After all, she was so self-assured about her beliefs, yet they instantly shattered from a simple

reality check.

In her heart, Yan Bingfeng was no longer the titan whom he once had been.

No dirty tricks!

No puppeteer pulling the strings behind the scenes!

Yan Bingfeng was defeated in a fair game.

Though Mo Yu was unwilling to accept the truth, she truly believed in Mo Yanshang's words.

However, she also held an unwavering grudge toward Han Jingru. No matter what the truth behind what happened at the Martial Arts Summit was, she was determined to take revenge against him because of what he did to Yan Bingfeng.

“Mo Yu, let me make this clear to you. I don't care about how much you despise Han Jingru, but don't you dare act rashly and get in his way. If you were to stir up something serious, I'd kick

you out of the Mo family without hesitation,” Mo Yanshang said, looking into Mo Yu’s feisty eyes. No matter how much he adored and pampered her, he knew that he had to be strict about it with the entire Mo family on the line.

Mo Yu’s heart sank.

Kick me out?

She had never expected that her loving grandfather would say those words right to her face.

Is he still the Grandpa I know?

“Grandpa, why?” Mo Yu was on the brink of tears again.

“I can’t give you a good explanation now, but remember this. We must not get on Han Jingru’s bad side,” Mo Yanshang replied. To date, he had only found out about what Han Jingru had done in the past. The extent of Han Jingru’s strength and his background was still shrouded in mystery, which made Mo Yanshang all the more afraid of

him.

“Why are you saying these things? Isn’t him just the worthless young master of the Han family? When have we, the Mo family, ever feared the Han family?” Mo Yu protested. Like most people, she only knew about Han Jingru from the rumors.

Han Jingru was known as the worthless young master of the Han family, and he had always been a laughing stock for people to gossip on. *What can he even do against us?*

Mo Yanshang pursed his lips, his expression still dark. *Oh, how I wish that Han Jingru is really just a worthless young master.* He could tell that the rumors were wrong based on how Han Jingru carried himself alone.

“Just do as you’re told! I don’t want to kick you out either,” Mo Yanshang sighed as he made his way out.

However, he abruptly stopped in his footsteps as he got to the door. Turning around, he said,

“You’re going to be cleaning this place up on your own. I’m not letting the servants help you. Take this as a lesson.”

Mo Yu felt a chill running down her spine. In her memories, no matter what she flung at the floor whenever she threw her tantrums, everything would be made clean and proper by the next day. She had never even cleaned after herself before. *I can't do this! No way!*

And that was not the only reason why Mo Yu felt as if she were about to faint. She had made an even more terrible mistake.

Oh no! I mustn't anger Han Jingru, but I have already kidnapped Wu Xin! Worse still, Wu Xin had suffered a fair bit from all the torture.

Oh, what have I done? She's Han Jingru's friend. If he finds out about this, I... I... Oh no, I mustn't let him find out at all costs!

After leaving the Mo residence, Qi Bingying walked closely by Han Jingru's side while Qi Donglin followed behind them. It almost looked as if she was closer to Han Jingru than her own father.

Of course, Qi Bingying was not doing it to get on his good side. She genuinely became really curious about Han Jingru and wanted to know him better.

It was difficult for her to fathom why someone just a few years older than her could get the upper hand in dealing with the likes of Mo Yanshang.

"Do you know much about Mo Yanshang?" she asked.

Qi Bingying's head was filled with questions with regards to Han Jingru and Mo Yanshang. Young girls of her age would not usually be dwelling on such thoughts for too long. After all, there were more exciting things to think of and do in one's youth. However, Han Jingru was not surprised to see her act in such a mature manner.

He knew that there was something different about her the moment that he saw her hide her traditionally attractive face through little details such as wearing a pair of glasses. Moreover, she was good at keeping secrets, even in front of a close friend. That calmness definitely took her years to master.

"Why ask me? I think you know the answer," he replied, laughing.

Qi Bingying pushed her glasses up. "Mo Yanshang started out as a thug on the streets. Rumor has it that he rose to power from all the lives that he had taken. He's a vicious man."

"And what about it?"

“And so, I’m wondering why such an infamous, cruel man would bow his head to you? What is it about you that he fears so much?” Qi Bingying said.

Han Jingru chuckled, “Maybe he fears me because I’m more cruel and cold-hearted than he is.”

Qi Bingying instinctively shook her head. While she was not well-acquainted with Han Jingru, she could tell that he was a sensible person who upheld his virtues.

Moreover, there was no way that he would be as hateful and vicious as a veteran of the underworld at his age.

“There’s no need to tell me if you don’t want to,” she said.

“Believe it or not, I’m speaking the truth.” Han Jingru smiled bitterly. In his previous life, he had killed countless lives in Terra Prison. Mo Yanshang’s doings were incomparable to the amount of blood that stained Han Jingru’s hands.

Still, he was not a cold-blooded killer by nature. The killings in Terra Prison would not have occurred if he had another choice.

“I’m going home with my father now. Will I still get the chance to see you in the future?” Qi Bingying asked.

“Of course...” Han Jingru trailed off. A realization had just hit him.

According to the flow of events in his previous life, Qi Bingying would be going to Yun City for her studies. There, she would meet Su Yimo and Shen Zhuoman. However, Han Jingru was not certain that things would turn out the same. His actions had resulted in many changes. With the Qi family doing relatively well at this point in time, the chances of Qi Donglin venturing overseas would be very low. Hence, it was also possible

that Qi Bingying would not go to Yun City at all.

“What’s wrong?” Qi Bingying asked upon seeing Han Jingru sink into deep thought.

“Yun City is a good place,” Han Jingru said out of the blue.

Qi Bingying blinked. Han Jingru was not answering to the question at all.

However, on second thought, Qi Bingying figured that Han Jingru was trying to tell her that she would be able to meet him again in Yun City.

She smiled to herself, remembering his words by heart.

“Jingru, thank you for what you’ve done today. I will remember the good that you have done for the Qi family. If you need any help in the future, just call me,” Qi Donglin told Han Jingru before they parted ways.

Han Jingru nodded dispassionately. He had only helped them that day because of Qi Bingying. Never once had he thought about getting the Qi family to do him favors, mostly because they were not too useful or important to him.

Just as Han Jingru was about to walk off, Qi Bingying dashed to him and grabbed his arm.

“What are you doing?” Han Jingru raised an eyebrow.

The next thing he knew, Qi Bingying was pressing her lips onto his lightly.

“That’s my first kiss!” Qi Bingying left him with those words before she ran off, leaving Han Jingru standing there, stiff as a tree.

What just happened?

Did she just... kiss me?

“Hmph. So she had a strong personality all along. She’s not even asked for consent,” Han Jingru said to himself, a little exasperated as he began thinking back on the time when Qi Bingying tried forcing him into having sex with her after he had gotten drunk.

A while later, Qi Donglin and Qi Bingying arrived at Yang Wanlin’s villa.

Inside the villa, Ouyang Fei was still pacing about, feeling worried and agitated. Though she was not very in touch with the happenings in the business world, she had heard about Mo Yanshang before. She feared that that sly old man might put Qi Donglin and Qi Bingying in peril.

After an agonizingly long wait, the doorbell finally rang.

Upon seeing that both father and daughter were safe and sound, Ouyang Fei heaved a sigh of relief.

“How did it go? Are you alright?” Ouyang Fei was eager to hear about what happened.

On the other hand, Qi Donglin was still a little lost in thoughts. Everything that happened almost felt unreal, like a dream.

“Please get me some water first. I need to clear my head a little,” Qi Donglin replied.

Ouyang Fei quickly did as she was told. “Why are you like this? Did something happen?” She asked.

“Of course. I can’t even believe it.”

Ouyang Fei tensed up at those words.

He can't believe it? What happened? Is the Qi family done for?

Upon seeing Ouyang Fei turn pale as a sheet, Qi Donglin decided to just recount the happenings to her.

As she listened, Ouyang Fei's brows furrowed deeper and deeper. Just like the others, she found it hard to believe that Mo Yanshang would give in time after time, all because of Han Jingru.

"How could that be? Don't tell me that Mo Yanshang is scared of Han Jingru or anything!" Ouyang Fei said.

Qi Donglin replied with a solemn nod. Though he was not entirely sure of the reasons behind it, it was clear that Mo Yanshang was extremely wary of Han Jingru out of fear.

"I think I've underestimated Han Jingru. He's probably a lot more powerful than we think," Qi Donglin continued.

"Okay, so what's next? Are we just going to wait at home? Can we really take back what we've lost?" Ouyang Fei asked.

"Of course. Mo Yanshang said it himself. Furthermore, he would not dare to lie to Han Jingru," Qi Donglin said firmly, smiling at her.



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Ouyang Fei was more than delighted to hear those words of assurance. *Who would have known that Han Jingru is so powerful that even Mo Yanshang fears him?*

Isn't he just a kid? If he's this capable at this age, who knows what kind of heights he would rise to when he becomes an adult?

Additionally, there was a question that was bugging Ouyang Fei. *Why would someone like him help us for no obvious reason?*

As she sank into thought, she sneaked a glance at Qi Bingying. Qi Bingying was the only connection that Han Jingru had with the Qi family. From their past interactions, Ouyang Fei also observed that Han Jingru had some interest in her daughter.

“Hey, do you think... do you think that he’s interested in our daughter?” Ouyang Fei whispered softly.

It was a possibility that Qi Donglin had considered before. However, it was not a

convincing proposition. Since Qi Bingying was still a young girl who lacked sexual appeal, it would not make sense that Han Jingru was interested in her romantically, especially when he already had attractive, mature women at his disposal.

“I’ve thought about that before, but I don’t think that’s the case,” he replied.

Ouyang Fei nodded lightly. She also felt that while Qi Bingying was indeed a pretty girl, she did not really have the feminine charm of a grown woman. The chances of Han Jingru falling for her would be slim.

“Hmph. But that makes me a little anxious. Haven’t you heard of the saying? There ain’t no such thing as a free lunch. I’m feeling very uneasy,” Ouyang Fei sighed.

“Let’s not think too much about it for now. I’m happy to be able to get back what belongs to us. As for what favors Han Jingru might want from us, let’s think about it when the time comes,” Qi Donglin said, patting her shoulder.

Ouyang Fei gave him a nod. Instead of overthinking Han Jingru's motives behind his actions, they would have an easier time simply by accepting what had been endowed to them.

Later that day, the family of three left Yan City. On the way home, all that Qi Bingying could think about was Yun City. Going there was the only way for her to meet Han Jingru again. However, she needed a compelling reason to go there because her parents definitely would not want a young girl like her to go live in a different city.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru received some updates on the Martial Arts Summit.

The match scheduled for the next day had been canceled, for his opponent had backed out. As a result, he would proceed to the next round of the competition. Han Jingru had seen it coming. The average contestant would not dare go up against him after Yan Bingfeng's defeat.

"Mom, the match tomorrow is canceled," Han Jingru said to Shi Yan after ending his call with

Yang Wanlin.

Shi Yan frowned. She knew that the Martial Arts Summit was crucial for Han Jingru to showcase his true abilities. All his efforts would go to waste if he could no longer participate in it.

“What’s going on? Is someone setting you back?”
Shi Yan asked.

Shaking his head, Han Jingru smiled and replied, “No, it’s not like that. My opponent chickened out, so I’ll proceed to the next round of the competition straightway.”

Shi Yan chuckled. It was good news for Han Jingru. He would also be able to take a rest from the previous round.

“It seems like people are seeing you in a different light now. I think many more will just back out of the competition till someone equally strong emerges,” she said.

Han Jingru was thinking the same thing. It might be possible that he would be resting until the

semi-finals or even the finals.

“I guess I’ll have nothing to do for a while,” he said with a disappointed look.

“You can try to do some other things, you know?” Shi Yan said.

“Like what?” Han Jingru instantly regretted replying to Shi Yan upon seeing the dubious expression on her face.

There was only one thing that she could have been referring to - finding him a girlfriend.

Just as he had feared, Shi Yan replied with a sly smile. “Well, at your age, I think it’s time to get a girlfriend or something. It’s always good to get started early so that you learn the ropes of cultivating romantic relationships.”

Han Jingru rolled his eyes. *I’m fourteen! Why would any mother want their kid to find love at my age?*

“I’ve got more important things to do,” he said.

Shi Yan gave him a look of disapproval. *What else do you have going on now that your match is canceled?*

“What are you talking about? Are you planning to do a workout in the boxing ring now that the match is canceled?” Shi Yan asked.

“It’s been a while since Zhong Changqiu departed. I think Nangong Boling will be arriving in Yan City very soon,” he replied.

Nangong Boling was someone who spent his entire life doing research on Apocalypse. He had devoted all the time and money that he had on that. While Han Jingru did not know what Nangong Boling’s exact goals were, he knew that he would definitely make an appearance if word about his connections to Apocalypse got out.

Shi Yan had heard much about Nangong Shuxian and the Nangong family from Han Jingru. However, she still found it hard to picture what kind of person this mysterious man was.

“Is Nangong Boling really that powerful?” she

asked out of curiosity.

“The average person would probably see him as the embodiment of absolute human intellect and strength, or in other words, absolute power,” Han Jingru said. The phrase, absolute power, was the only phrase to describe Nangong Boling accurately. There was simply no other individual on the same level as him.

He was like the great mastermind in the shadows. Though his name could not be found in the lists of the most wealthy people globally, many of those at the tops of those lists were mere puppets working under Nangong Boling.

“You’re basically saying that he’s a god!” Shi Yan gasped. She knew that she could believe in what Han Jingru said, but she could not help but wonder why she had never heard about him before.

“Well, you can say that, if you’re talking about wealth and the resources that he holds,” Han Jingru replied. Nangong Boling was not the only one who possessed god-like power. Similar to

him, Han Jingru stood at the top of the world in terms of his martial arts abilities.

“So he’s the wealthiest man in the world?” Shi Yan raised an eyebrow.

“That’s more like it. The lists of wealthiest people in the world available for the public to see only consist of people willing to show how affluent they are. Some financial giants wish to keep a low profile, and Nangong Boling is one of them. However, about half of those in the charts actually work under Nangong Boling,” Han Jingru explained.

Shi Yan’s jaw dropped. *Half of those listed as the wealthiest people in the world? How rich is he then?*



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Meanwhile, within the Nangong family.

Nangong Boling had gotten his hands on some information on Han Jingru from Zhong Changqiu. However, he did not set out for Yan City immediately. Based on what Zhong Changqiu said, Han Jingru was but a kid. *How can a mere kid know anything about Apocalypse?*

He had his reasons for thinking that way. In his attempts to search for Apocalypse, he had spent an immeasurable amount of time and money. He would not be swayed to go to Yan City so easily.

“Is he really that great?” Nangong Boling asked Zhong Changqiu.

It was a question that he had asked time after time. Though he would always hear the same answer, he still needed some assurance.

On the other hand, Zhong Changqiu was also patient about the matter. He would give his genuine reply every single time Nangong Boling asked about Han Jingru.

“I guess my descriptions will not be able to give you a full picture of how strong he really is. I haven’t witnessed his true strength because the gap in our abilities is too big,” Zhong Changqiu said. He did not feel particularly ashamed about losing to someone so much younger than him. In the world of fighters, their abilities were never measured by age - power was the only criteria you needed to gain respect from others.

“Do you have a rough gauge of how much he has hidden from you?” Nangong Boling asked.

Zhong Changqiu paused momentarily to think but shook his head eventually.

Using one’s imagination to predict how powerful Han Jingru was would be foolish, for the extent of his strength was inconceivable.

“Sir, I think there’s a high chance that Han Jingru knows about Apocalypse. His incredible powers must have come from that place. I don’t think there’s any other explanation for it,” Zhong Changqiu said in a serious tone.

“So you think that I should make a trip to Yan City as well?” Nangong Boling asked.

Zhong Changqiu nodded frantically. Meeting Han Jingru in person was the only way to get a step closer to the truth behind it all. Also, the trip would definitely be worthwhile, given how much Han Jingru understood about the Nangong family.

“It seems like I really shouldn’t hesitate any longer,” Nangong Boling said, standing up.

Zhong Changqiu exhaled deeply. He was glad that Nangong Boling had finally made the decision after taking his time to think it through.

Three days later, at the Han residence.

Nangong Shuxian had been staying at home and shutting herself away from the rest of the world for days. All the work that needed to be done at the company was handled by Han Ying while she remained in her house, feeling traumatized and scared.

Though she told herself that it was unlikely for Nangong Boling to actually visit Yan City, she had her doubts. Furthermore, Han Jingru's extensive knowledge of the Nangong family was making her all the more uneasy.

Why does he know that much?

And why does he seem so confident about Nangong Boling coming to Yan City?

She knew that Han Jingru must have had a good reason for being that self-assured.

But... but how am I supposed to face him if he really comes? Nangong Shuxian felt her headache worsen.

She had always treated Han Jingru poorly as if he was a piece of trash. Even with the achievements that he had attained at such a young age, she was still in denial and would make up all sorts of excuses to put him down.

However, she would have to face reality and acknowledge Han Jingru's capabilities if

Nangong Boling visited Yan City just to meet him.

With Nangong Boling's status and influence, no one would dare to call Han Jingru a piece of trash ever again.

"Ma'am, we have a visitor," a servant said, walking up to her.

Upon hearing the word "visitor", Nangong Shuxian shuddered.

With Han Jingru's influence in the business world in Yan City, most businessmen had blacklisted the Han residence as a taboo place. Nobody would come for a casual visit.

With a pounding heart, Nangong Shuxian asked, "Did the visitor give a name?"

"No, but he wants you to welcome him personally. He says that he is an old acquaintance," the servant said.

An old acquaintance!

Nangong Shuxian felt every single muscle in her body tense up.

No one but Nangong Boling would refer to himself as her old acquaintance.

Moreover, she could not think of anyone who would request her to welcome them in person.

He's here!

He's really here!

After taking a few deep breaths, she turned to the servant and said, "Tell the rest to go home. All the servants shall take a day off. Get everyone to leave the place right now."

The servant looked rather baffled by the order given. Getting all the servants in the house to leave for a whole day seemed odd.

In spite of that, the servant quickly nodded and proceeded to notify every one of the arrangements.

Meanwhile, Nangong Shuxian tried desperately to calm herself, but to no avail.

She had not seen Nangong Boling in years since she had left the Nangong family. She used to think that things would remain that way, until Han Jingru came along.

Every step she made toward the door felt heavy, for she knew that the moment she opened the door to see Nangong Boling, things would take a big turn, and certain beliefs she held would be crushed.

Though Nangong Shuxian was unwilling to face it, she had no other choice.

Of course, there was a thin trace of hope in the corner of her heart telling her that there was still a chance that things would not take a turn for the worst.

*What if the visitor isn't Nangong Boling at all?
Maybe I'm just thinking too much.*

Her arms were shaky and her palms sweaty,

Nangong Shuxian finally opened the door.

“Long time no see. Oh, look at how we have aged!” Nangong Boling’s raspy voice reverberated in her ears.

Despair!

All that Nangong Shuxian could feel at that moment was utter despair. Things had taken a turn for the worst indeed.

“Wow, it’s really you,” she said weakly.

“You don’t seem too happy to see me,” Nangong Boling said, smiling.

Nangong Shuxian shook her head. She did not have the guts to offend Nangong Boling in any way, even if she felt differently on the inside.

In contrast to her usual self, she was extra polite and amicable as she welcomed Nangong Boling into the house. Han Ying probably would not even believe that she would act like that unless he saw it for himself. After all, Nangong Shuxian

was notoriously known as the ill-tempered tiger of the family.



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“It’s our honor to have you here,” Nangong Shuxian said, giving Nangong Boling a slight bow.

Nangong Boling smirked. “I’m glad that you still know your place. Many of my little puppets would selectively forget about me after marrying into wealth. Some even sought revenge against me. Too bad that all that’s left of them are their ashes. I can’t even be sure if they regretted their actions!”

Nangong Shuxian froze. She knew Nangong Boling too well. Those women he referred to as puppets were definitely dead.

She was also one of the puppets belonging to the Nangong family, and she felt the same as the rest. However, she knew that she must not do anything about her pain and suffering, not with Nangong Boling overseeing her every move.

And as it had turned out, she had made the right choice. She did not want to become a pile of ash just yet.

“Are you here for Han Jingru?” she asked.

“Hmph. Do you think that you are deserving of my visit?” he scoffed.

As always, Nangong Boling’s remarks were sharp and ruthless.

Nangong Shuxian’s face visibly turned pale, but she forced a smile and replied, “Of course I’m not, but what about Han Jingru?”

“I’ll be able to tell once I see him. Bring him to me,” Nangong Boling said coldly.

“He doesn’t live here anymore. It’s been a while since he moved out,” Nangong Shuxian said.

“I said bring him here! Is it that hard of a thing to do?” Nangong Boling expressed his dismay.

I’m giving him a big enough honor just by coming here to visit. He can’t be expecting me to pay him a visit, can he?

Clearly, there was no way that Nangong Boling

would do anything that might make him lose face, especially when Han Jingru's connection to Apocalypse was still shrouded in mystery.

"I'll try my best." Nangong Shuxian was rather troubled by the task at hand. Ever since Han Jingru left, the Han family no longer took him as family, nor did he see the Han residence as his home.

After welcoming Nangong Boling and Zhong Changqiu in, Nangong Shuxian ushered him to the pavilion in the backyard. It was a well-furnished place surrounded by picturesque greenery, where she often rested at. However, with the only bench was taken by Nangong Boling, she had no choice but to stand.

"I will go contact him now," she said.

"Go."

Nangong Shuxian only dared leave upon hearing Nangong Boling's order.

"How is Han Xiuzhi doing?" Nangong Boling

turned to ask Zhong Changqiu. While Han Xiuzhi was not an especially useful pawn for Nangong Boling, things might change if Han Jingru really happened to be a core member of Apocalypse.

“I had passed down the orders to Terra Prison. He will not be injured,” Zhong Changqiu replied.

“If Han Jingru turns out to be someone of importance, then Han Xiuzhi would become a good pawn to pressure him. We must keep him safe for the time being,” Nangong Boling continued.

Zhong Changqiu nodded. He was well-aware of Nangong Boling’s plans.

Meanwhile, Nangong Shuxian, who had returned to her room, was staring at her phone in distress. Never had she actively contacted Han Jingru before, and she had never expected that she would be required to do such a thing.

Asking Han Jingru for a favor was so humiliating for her that she would rather die than do it.

However, she also knew that she would face certain death if she disobeyed Nangong Boling.

“Hmph. I’m doing this for Yu!” Nangong Shuxian spluttered, finally dialing Shi Yan’s phone number.

Shi Yan was busy in the kitchen when her phone rang. After rounds of trial-and-error, her culinary skills had improved significantly.

Shi Yan almost dropped her phone upon seeing Nangong Shuxian’s name being displayed on her phone screen.

Why is Nangong Shuxian calling me all of a sudden?

She ran out of the kitchen and yelled at Han Jingru, “Jingru! Nangong Shuxian has called me!”

Han Jingru smiled. “Nangong Boling must have arrived in Yan City. You should answer the call.”

Shi Yan picked up the call and put it on speaker.

“Bring Han Jingru back to the Han residence this moment!” Nangong Shuxian sounded aggressive even on the phone.

Shi Yan blinked. It had been a long time since she was last ordered around by Nangong Shuxian like that. However, she still felt uneasy. The trauma of the past was deep-seated in her mind.

She turned to Han Jingru helplessly.

“Nangong Shuxian, if Nangong Boling has arrived, then get him to see me himself. As for the Han residence, there is no way in hell that I’m going back there ever again,” Han Jingru said calmly.

Though it was an expected answer, Nangong Shuxian was still enraged to hear Han Jingru say it.

Who do you take Nangong Boling for? Do you even know what kind of request you are making?

“Han Jingru, who do you think you are? How dare you ask Nangong Boling to go to you?”

Nangong Shuxian said, gritting her teeth.

“He might as well just return to where he came from if he refuses to come to me. And let me tell you this. I’m not a member of the Han family anymore. Don’t you try ordering me around again!” Han Jingru sounded aggressive.

“I’ll give you one last chance. Come to the Han residence, or I’ll use everything that the Han family has against you!” Nangong Shuxian threatened.

Everything that the Han family has?

Han Jingru burst into a hysterical laughter.

What does the Han family even have? You? Who can even stand a chance against me?

Even the Yang family alone could bring down the Han family. He would not even need to lift a finger.

“You can hang up the call now,” Han Jingru told Shi Yan.

Shi Yan did as he said. If not for Han Jingru, she would not have the guts to do something bold like that.

“She’s still the same,” she lamented.

“Nangong Shuxian is too used to living that way. Not to mention that she has always treated me like trash,” Han Jingru said without a trace of emotion.

On the other end, Nangong Shuxian literally felt as if she were about to explode from anger. Obviously, Han Jingru could not care less about what she said, and she was not taking that well.

What am I supposed to tell Nangong Boling now?

“Han Jingru! I’ll make you pay for your arrogance one day!” She growled.

After making her way back to the pavilion in the backyard of the villa, she reported the situation as it was to Nangong Boling, “He’s so arrogant that he insists on you going to him instead.”

Nangong Boling could feel a vein pop on his forehead. *The sheer audacity the punk has to do this!*



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