

“In my humble opinion, you really need to teach him a lesson, or you’ll never gain his respect!” Nangong Shuxian sounded eerily excited as she made the proposition to Nangong Boling. She could not be happier about Nangong Boling being angry with Han Jingru.

However, Nangong Boling was not someone who would be caught up in his emotions and act rashly. He had plans to carry out. Until he found out about Han Jingru’s connection to Apocalypse, he would not lay a finger on him.

“Nangong Shuxian, you think you can manipulate me into doing what you want?” Nangong Boling demanded.

Nangong Shuxian dared not even stare into his eyes. She was just a nobody in the Nangong family. Powerless and afraid, there was no way that she would admit to such a statement.

No matter how Nangong Shuxian might act toward others, she was a complete coward in front of Nangong Boling.

“I’m not trying to say that. Please, I didn’t mean that at all. I just think that Han Jingru needs to learn to respect you more,” she mumbled with her head low.

Nangong Boling made himself comfortable in his seat and turned to look at Zhong Changqiu. “In a way, the more disrespectful he is toward me, the more certain I am about his true identity.”

Zhong Changqiu nodded. Someone as smart as Han Jingru would not act that way for no reason. Given that he knew all about the Nangong family’s power but was still acting this arrogantly toward Nangong Boling, it would make all the more sense that his background was not to be reckoned with.

"I think you should go pay him a visit," Zhong Changqiu said.

"Zhong Changqiu! What in the world are you talking about? How could you ask the head of the Nangong family to pay a visit to a nobody?" Nangong Shuxian voiced her thoughts without even thinking.

She had not envisioned her words to backfire.

"A nobody? Nangong Shuxian, you're the nobody. The Han family has sunk this low all because of you, the worthless nobody. Do you even know a thing about Han Jingru's true background?" Nangong Boling said with disdain.

*True background?*

In her eyes, Han Jingru had always been a useless piece of crap. With all those years that he had spent with his arms tied, she had thought that starting a company would be the most that he could ever achieve. *Background? What kind of background could he possibly have?*

*The Yang family?*

*Or is it the Yao family?*

*It can't be the Mo family, can it?*

*Hold on. These families can't even compare to the Nangong family. Who could it possibly be?*

"Sir, he's just a good-for-nothing. How great of a background can he possibly have?" Nangong Shuxian asked, her voice shaky.

"Good-for-nothing?" Nangong Boling cracked up. So

*that's how this foolish woman sees him?*

*How could a good-for-nothing be a core member of Apocalypse?*

*How would a good-for-nothing display such formidable strength?*

*How could a good-for-nothing perform so well in the Martial Arts Summit?*

“Hah... Nangong Shuxian, you're blind. You've chosen to throw a gem into the dumpster and treat a piece of junk as the most precious thing in the world. How pitiful,” Nangong Boling jeered. He was obviously referring to Han Yu when he talked about the piece of junk.

His words were upsetting to hear for Nangong Shuxian. She only believed in what the fortune-teller had told her - Han Yu was the true successor of the Han family and that he would bring glory to the family.

No matter what Han Jingru did to prove his strength, Nangong Shuxian was assured that it was all just a facade.

“Sir, I think you've misunderstood some things. You're just seeing a facade. It's all just on the surface,” she said slowly, as if in a trance.

Looking at the brain-washed madwoman before him, Nangong Boling shook his head contemptuously and said, “Let me tell you this. Han Jingru is fated to be extraordinary, while Han Yu is not. And you'll regret your foolish actions one day.”

Even without conclusive evidence on Han Jingru's true identity, he could clearly tell, as a mere outsider, that Han Jingru was a much more talented individual than Han Yu.

Only Han Jingru had the ability to save the Han family.

*She is even trying to convince me that Han Yu is the better successor? What a joke?*

However, Nangong Boling also knew that Nangong Shuxian would never admit her mistakes without the hard facts being thrown at her face.

"I shall take my leave now. Don't you dare try anything funny." Those were the words that Nangong Boling left her with before striding off.

As she watched him leave, Nangong Shuxian finally revealed her true emotions. Her face was wrenched in a foul expression which resembled that of a hideous clown. She was but a coward with a nasty personality.

"Grandma! Is Han Jingru really better than me?" Han Yu suddenly appeared behind her. He had heard every word that Nangong Boling said about him. He was feeling rather upset about it as well. *How could he say that my good-for-nothing brother is better than me?*

"Of course not!" Nangong Shuxian replied firmly. Walking toward Han Yu and patting his head gently, she said, "He's a fool. Of course, he wouldn't know about how great of a man you would become. Han Jingru could never come close to you."

Upon hearing his grandmother's words, Han Yu grinned. For him, all he cared about was being appreciated and praised by Nangong Shuxian. Nobody else mattered.

"Grandma, don't you worry. I'll defeat Han Jingru and prove to all those fools that you were right all along!" he exclaimed, waving his fists.

Nangong Shuxian also felt better as she looked at Han

Yu's happy face. She could tell that Han Yu was making his baby steps toward becoming more mature. When Han Yu finally fulfilled his prophecy, everyone would get a harsh reality check. *And they'll see who's the better one!*

"Yu has grown so much. Grandma is so happy."

After leaving the Han residence, Nangong Boling did not go to Han Jingru immediately. He was still struggling to accept the fact that a disrespectful kid had requested for him to pay a visit personally.

Even if Han Jingru were the core member of Apocalypse, it would be outrageous to him to sacrifice his dignity to meet a mere kid. He would not make that move unless he had no other choice.

Moreover, he had plans to observe Han Jingru for a little longer.

The Martial Arts Summit was an ideal opportunity for him to study Han Jingru. His performance in the boxing ring would give him substantial evidence leading to his true identity.



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Nangong Boling was faced with a similar problem at the Martial Arts Summit. According to the information obtained, all of Han Jingru's opponents had chosen not to compete. In other words, it was no longer possible to see Han Jingru in action.

"Is he really that powerful and influential?" Nangong Boling doubted the capability of a fourteen-year-old, who made his opponents willingly do something shameful by giving up their rights to compete. Their actions also carried the implication of not being able to join the Martial Arts Summit in the future.

*Those who quit are not worthy of participating in the Martial Arts Summit.*

*Even if they insist to join, I'm afraid that their presence won't be welcomed. For any martial arts practitioner, quitting is an incredibly shameful thing to do.*

"Based on the news that we've heard so far, Han Jingru defeated a deserving fighter whom people thought was most likely going to win the championship. Hence, the increase of his deterrent effect," Zhong Changqiu explained.

He had inquired into the battle between Han Jingru and Yan Bingfeng and collected all related information. Yet, it was difficult for him to imagine Han Jingru's performance as he did not have a chance to witness him live. He had no clue the impact Han Jingru had left on the audience at the summit.

"Help me to make an appointment with the chairman of the Martial Arts Summit," instructed Nangong Boling.

"Noted," Zhong Changqiu acknowledged the order.

The Martial Arts Summit held in Yan City was considered

the most prominent championship in its field. The chairman was one of the eminent individuals in the city. However, Nangong Boling could not be bothered about their status and ranks. In his eyes, the local notables in Yan City were nothing.

Nangong Boling had the upper hand to make any changes to the structure of the Martial Arts Summit, especially its rules and regulations.

Since all of Han Jingru's opponents had raised the white flag, Nangong Boling forcefully arranged him another combatant.

An hour later, Zhong Changqiu returned with a white-haired elder, who seemed reluctant to show up.

"Sir, he's the chairman of the summit," Zhong Changqiu introduced the man.

Without making eye contact with the elder, Nangong Boling commanded, "I want a competition organized for Han Jingru in three days. I'll choose the candidate personally."

As a distinguished character in Yan City who was esteemed, the elder was displeased for being treated with disrespect.

Nangong Boling didn't even glance at him!

"I did you a favor for coming here to see you. Who do you think you are to do as you pleased?" The elder was angered.

Nangong Boling smiled. "Out of all the things that I want to do, there's only one thing which I can't, but it definitely isn't this."

“So what if I don’t oblige?” the elder challenged.

“Do you know that there are masters of disguise in this world? Their skills are impeccable and their works are without any loopholes. When you die, there will be another puppet who looks exactly like you and he will obey my every command. On the contrary, you... perhaps, will sink to the bottom of the sea. Of course, you do have other options. For example, save me some trouble by being obedient and your life will be spared,” Nangong Boling intimidated him.

“Don’t you threaten me. Do you dare to kill me?” the elder scoffed. *Given my position, if anything happened to me, the entire Yan City would inevitably investigate this matter thoroughly. Therefore, he’s just being an alarmist, trying to exaggerate the situation. Will he be so bold as to ignore the consequences and do it?*

“An elder like you is indeed not afraid to face death.” Nangong Boling shrugged his shoulders and said to Zhong Changqiu, “If that’s the case, we’ll have to waste a little bit more time...”

Zhong Changqiu gave an emotionless nod and then approached the elder.

He had a sword hidden in his sleeves. As soon as he drew his weapon, the elder would die a gory death.

The elder was not any Tom, Dick, and Harry. He had extraordinary strengths and skills, otherwise, he would not have become the chairman of the Martial Arts Summit. That was the reason he was not fearful of Nangong Boling.

“You don’t have much time left to decide. I hope you won’t regret your decision,” Zhong Changqiu advised him.



“What did you take me for?” the elder sneered at him.

*There's only one way to find out...*

When the two started fighting, Nangong Boling remained indifferent and did not cast a look at them. He had a wild card. If Zhong Changqiu lost, he could still turn the tables around.

Nangong Boling would always carry a gun with him whenever he left the territories of Nangong family. After all, he was the man who controlled the world economy. He had to be vigilant and watch out for danger wherever he went.

“Young man, don't underestimate me just because I'm older than you. Take this as a hard lesson.” Moments later, a smug settled on the elder's face. He obviously got the upper hand.

Zhong Changqiu was an above-average fighter. Yet, his capabilities were of no match when challenged by an experienced master. It had nothing to do with age; he just lacked skills.

Considering the situation, Nangong Boling knew that it was time for him to step in.

“Are you fast enough to dodge a bullet?” Drawing his gun out, he said to the elder.

The elder was taken aback at the sight of the black gun. *How could punches and kicks be compared to a weapon as such?*

“A true martial art practitioner wouldn't use a gun.” the elder replied with disdain.

“I'm not a martial art practitioner. I'm just a businessman

who prioritizes my own interests. I have no qualms in using any method to achieve anything that will bring me benefits." Nangong Boling chuckled.

The elder's expression dimmed. He took pride in his capabilities, so he dared to meet Nangong Boling alone. However, he did not expect such a twist in the plot.

"Since you're here, I assume that you would want a piece of the cake too. If you do as I say, rest assured that only good things will befall you," Nangong Boling tried to persuade him by playing on his heartstrings.

*If I didn't think about taking advantage of the situation, why would I come all the way here?*

*However, Nangong Boling's request is too much. As a result, a fight broke out.*

"You must understand that the registration has ended before the commencement of the Martial Arts Summit. Adding another candidate at this juncture goes against the rule of the championship!" the elder tried to justify his stance.

"Rules are determined by man. Similarly, they can be altered too. You're the chairman of the summit. Don't you have the authority to override it?" Nangong Boling mocked him.



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“Moreover, you might die if you don’t do as I say.”

It was a severe threat to the elder.

*Though I’m old now, how could I face a humiliating death given my current status and position?*

*As much as his request would enrage all other participants of the Martial Arts Summit, do I have any other solution to keep myself alive?*

While trying to survive the threat, the elder also found himself unable to accept the deal if he could not profit from it.

“And what can I get in return?” he asked blatantly.

Hearing the question, Nangong Boling grinned from ear to ear. *Anything that can be solved by money is no longer a problem.*

“Is a hundred million sufficient?” Nangong Boling suggested.

The elder’s brows twitched upon hearing the sum. *Who on earth is this guy to offer such an exorbitant amount? Is he really so wealthy?*

“You aren’t pulling my leg, are you?” he doubted.

“I can transfer the money immediately before you get to work. Does this sound like a joke to you?” Nangong Boling rebutted. A hundred million might sound like an astronomical figure to many, but it was nothing more than some loose change to the head of the Nangong family. It hardly even scrape off a tip of his gold mine.

“Deal!” the elder agreed. He had no other way to save his own skin. *It’s worthwhile to gain a hundred million while*

*offending some people.*

“I’ll let you know the candidate by tomorrow. Get this organized within three days. Any problem?” Nangong Boling went straight to the point.

“As long as I receive the money in my account, I’ll get this done nicely for you,” the elder answered.

“Please see him out.” Nangong Boling waved at Zhong Changqiu.

After sending the elder off, Zhong Changqiu returned to Nangong Boling’s side with a puzzled look on his face. *Killing the elder and then replacing him with a puppet would be far more efficient than depending on him to do the work. Why does Nangong Boling want to spend money to get the job done?*

“I know what you’re thinking. It’s too time-consuming to find the right puppet and wait for him to get familiarized with the elder’s identity and adapt to his personality.” Since Zhong Changqiu refrained from asking, Nangong Boling took the initiative to explain to him.

Money meant nothing to Nangong Boling, but time was everything to him. He would never waste a single second on meaningless matters.

A hundred million was just a petty amount in the total assets owned by the Nangong family.

“Sir, who do you have in mind for the Martial Arts Summit?” Zhong Changqiu asked.

“Do you remember the old friend I met in Yanxia? He’s now living in the secluded mountains, training his disciple. I know where he is,” said Nangong Boling.

“Are you talking about Chong Yang?” Zhong Changqiu frowned. *He’s indeed a master who’s gone hidden for many years. Unexpectedly, Nangong Boling can still track his whereabouts.*

“That’s right. He’s a true master. If Han Jingru could defeat him, then it solidifies his identity.” Nangong Boling handed a name card to Zhong Changqiu and continued saying, “Look him up at the address stated on the card and tell him that I want to see him. I don’t think he will decline my invitation.”

“Noted,” Zhong Changqiu answered with a nod.

Not a soul could be seen at a random mountainous area. From time to time, a young voice could be heard groaning and screaming in pain in the deep forest. For those who had no idea what happened, it sounded very much like a child abuse case.

When one took a closer look, it would reveal the truth that the child was not being abused, but was running amok, hitting at trees. Though his shoulders had been severely wounded and covered in blood, the child gritted his teeth and persevered with his action.

There was a middle-aged man beside the child, who had turned a blind eye to what was going on in front of him. He showed no signs of care or concern for the child. Instead, he kept on urging the child to exert more effort and work harder.

“These are just minor injuries and you’re already crying and wailing. How dare you call yourself my disciple? Continue your training and keep hitting on this tree until it’s broken. You deserve no rest today.” Chong Yang was reprimanding him while snacking on some wild groundnuts.

Upon hearing Chong Yang's command, the child fought back his tears and dared not slack at all.

"Do you know why you've been named Qi Hu? The tiger is the king of all beasts and I want you to be a supreme king in the future. You may lament now, but you will thank me later once you realize my good intentions." Chong Yang nagged.

Qi Hu was clueless as to why he had to do all these. It had been his daily routine since the day Chong Yang picked him up. He had to follow his master's instructions for him to be fed.

Then again, his injuries caused by knocking down trees would usually heal overnight after applying medication. That was a consolation that fueled his motivation to keep pressing on.

"My disciple will surely be the *crème de la crème*. If you can't pass my challenge, you're forbidden to go out of the mountain for the rest of your life," Chong Yang added.

After what seemed like forever, Qi Hu fainted due to excessive pain, a scene which would happen almost on a daily basis.

Chong Yang cast a glance at him. He continued rebuking him while putting him on his shoulders and carrying him back to the little hut.

"Had I known how weak you were, I wouldn't have taken you home with me."

At the hut, Chong Yang tossed Qi Hu into a yellow barrel.

The barrel was filled with the medicinal herbs that he had prepared. It was what had cured Qi Hu each time.

After some time, Qi Hu woke up to the aroma from the grill outdoor. Immediately, his eyes twinkled. He propped himself up and crawled out of the barrel in his naked bottom.

Chong Yang was roasting a hare he hunted outside of the hut. A rich, languid, sweet smoke lingered in the air.

As soon as he heard the sound of footsteps approaching, Chong Yang commented, "Stop there. You didn't complete your mission today, so you have no rights to eat."

Qi Hu stood still and heaved a long sigh of despair.

He could only gulp at the sight of Chong Yang feasting on the roasted hare.

All of a sudden, Chong Yang was stunned and his entire body tensed up.

He saw a silhouette not too far away.

*It's a secluded area, why would anyone come here?*

*Looking at the way he walked, it seems he was a martial art practitioner too. Could it be an enemy seeking revenge?*

"Who are you?" Chong Yang asked coldly.

"The head of the family has asked that I come to see you. He would like to request for a favor." It was Zhong Changqiu. He finally found Chong Yang after a long journey.

*Much thanks to the light and smoke from the bonfire. Otherwise, looking for someone deep in the mountains at night was like finding a needle in a haystack.*

“Head of the family?”

“Nangong Boling.”

Hearing the name, Chong Yang was startled. He quickly got up and chucked away the hare in his hands.

Chong Yang had never owed anyone a favor in his life, except for Nangong Boling who saved him once. Hence, he had promised to return the favor.



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"It's really unexpected that he found me." Chong Yang went into deep thoughts. *When I retired, I almost cut off all ties with everyone in order to focus on training up Qi Hu. I even purposely hid away in a secluded mountain. Who knew, Nangong Boling tracked me down.*

"Nothing escapes the head of the family," Zhong Changqiu said naturally.

Chong Yang nodded. *Nangong Boling's circle of influence is indeed amazing. Since I've given him my promise back then, there's no reason for me to refuse his request, now that he had found me.*

He took a look at Qi Hu who was chewing the roasted hare that he threw away. "What does he want me to do?"

"He hopes that you can participate in the Martial Arts Summit which is happening now in Yan City," Zhong Changqiu went straight to the point.

"Martial Arts Summit?" Chong Yang was dumbfounded. As a martial arts practitioner, he knew about the summit but was perplexed as to why Nangong Boling want him to take part in it.

Nangong Boling was quite influential in Yanxia under the disguise of many of his puppets, whom he used to control the scenarios. He particularly liked developing his empire through that method.

*Now, Nangong Boling wanted to join the Martial Arts Summit publicly? Does it mean that he's tired of being low-key and is now ready to make a name in Yanxia?*

Chong Yang dismissed his own speculation because he

thought that it did not make sense. *That doesn't fit Nangong Boling's character; neither does he need to do so.*

"May I ask why?" Chong Yang posted the question which troubled him.

Zhong Changqiu shook his head and replied, "I'm not in any position to answer on behalf of Sir. When you see him, you can ask him personally."

Chong Yang sighed. *Actually, whatever the reason is, it's not important. The key thing is that I've promised Nangong Boling before, and I ought to keep my word. He found me and I'll have to show up.*

*Unfortunately, this is going to delay Qi Hu's training schedule. For each day that's postponed, the training momentum will be completely affected.*

Chong Yang was worried for Qi Hu's safety if he were to leave him in the mountains alone.

"I can bring my disciple along, right?"

"Absolutely."

Chong Yang walked toward Qi Hu who was enjoying the fatty roast.

Qi Hu lifted his head and gave him a satisfied grin. "Master, you're so good at cooking. It was delicious."

Chong Yang habitually kicked Qi Hu on the side. "Get your things packed and get ready to head down the mountain."

That was not an abusive act, but the accustomed interaction between a master and his disciple. Qi Hu would even feel as if something were missing if he had not been kicked for a day.

“We’re getting out of here?” Completely baffled, Qi Hu stared at Chong Yang. *Master has mentioned many times before that I’m not allowed to leave the mountain until I’ve met his expectations.*

“Why though, Master?” Qi Hu was curious.

“Shut up. Do I need to explain anything to you if I want to leave the mountain?” As soon as he finished his sentence, Chong Yang lifted his leg again.

Seeing that familiar action, Qi Hu ran back to the hut right away and started packing.

Although Chong Yang was doubtful of many things, he did not clarify them with Zhong Changqiu. The latter’s position required him to be very cautious, so he would not simply answer Chong Yang’s questions.

The trio set out to go down the mountain that night, without a moment of rest.

Back in Yan City, Han Jingru was rather free after all of his opponents had a walkover.

However, he was not idle, for he knew that Nangong Boling was in Yan City and they would meet up sooner or later.

“It’s so strange these few days.” Han Jingru was watching television in the living room when he heard Shi

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Yan mumbled to herself while looking at her phone.

“What’s the matter?” Han Jingru asked.

Shi Yan approached him and passed him her phone.

The chat history between Shi Yan and Wu Xin was shown on the screen. It seemed that they were having a good time chatting until the recent two days, Wu Xin stopped responding to any messages sent by Shi Yan.

“What’s so strange about that? I’ve made myself clear to her. It’s normal if she no longer wants to talk to you.” Han Jingru chuckled. *She just didn’t reply; it’s not a big deal at all.*

Shi Yan shook her head as she disagreed with Han Jingru’s guess.

*He was quite the heartless one, but I doubt that would affect my relationship with Wu Xin. She’s always been a courteous girl. She won’t ignore my messages without a valid reason.*

“Son, I have a bad feeling about this. Perhaps something happened.” Shi Yan was troubled.

“Don’t worry. What could possibly happen? Even if it did, it has got nothing to do with us,” Han Jingru said confidently. *I saved Wu Xin on the night we first met. It’s her business if she wants to continue being stubborn. I can’t be bothered.*

“What if it’s related to you? Why don’t you accompany me to check it out?” Shi Yan suggested.

Hearing this, Han Jingru became vigilant.

*Is this another trap set up by Mom to make me meet up with Wu Xin?*

“Mom, there’s zero chance in us getting together. Please don’t think of any way to make me go see her,” Han Jingru said helplessly.

Shi Yan gave him a light punch on the shoulder. “I’m truly worried about her. I’ve given up matchmaking the both of you some time ago, so don’t you ever think that I’m up to something.”

“She’s an adult who should be responsible for her own actions. If she hurts herself, she should bear all consequences on her own,” Han Jingru said casually. He was clearly unsympathetic toward Wu Xin and did not plan to lend a hand even if she was in trouble.

“Aren’t you afraid that this might have something to do with you? What if your enemies come after her?” Shi Yan added.

“How is that possible? Why would my enemies go after her?” Han Jingru slumped on the sofa, looking lethargic.

“If you aren’t coming with me, I’m going on my own.” Shi Yan went to her room to grab her handbag and then got ready to leave the house.

Han Jingru was in a dilemma. *I don’t plan to poke my nose into her business, but I can’t let Mom go alone, can I?*

*What if Wu Xin really ran into trouble and affected Mom?*

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“What am I going to do with you?” Han Jingru stood up reluctantly and followed Shi Yan.

She smiled. “You’re concerned about me, aren’t you? I thought you were really that heartless.”

“Mom, this is going to be the last time. After this, it’s best you cut off all ties with Wu Xin,” Han Jingru stated firmly. He had no intentions to get entangled in Wu Xin’s life; not because he was afraid that he would be affected, but he was worried that she could not extricate herself from him.



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Both the mother and son duo came to a dilapidated residential area. Shi Yan looked extremely anxious and she seemed to be earnestly concerned about Wu Xin's safety. Han Jingru found her reaction hard to believe.

*When did these two seemingly unrelated persons get so close?*

He could not understand how Shi Yan felt because he did not step into her shoes.

To Shi Yan, Wu Xin was the first person who made her feel that she had a true friend. In the past, her social circles mainly consisted of women who married into wealthy families. These so-called friends were mostly connected with her through mutual benefits. In other words, their friendships were built on material things instead of genuine friendships.

Wu Xin was different. They could talk about anything under the sun, without involving any financial interests. She was her real pal at multiple levels, an actual friend she never had.

*Knock! Knock!*

*No reply was heard. Wu Xin is probably not home.*

Shi Yan was panic-stricken because Wu Xin had not replied to any of her messages nor answered her calls. *This is really strange!*

"Oh no, what should we do? It seems that something really happened." Shi Yan was a bundle of nerves.

Pulling Shi Yan aside, Han Jingru kicked the door open.



Though his action was rather brutal, it was the most efficient method to get inside.

When they walked into the living room, Shi Yan noticed a thick layer of dust on the coffee table.

She then confirmed that something had happened to Wu Xin. *If she's been home, how could there be so much dust on the furniture?*

"Seems like she hasn't been back for at least a few days." Han Jingru smelled trouble. *This is Wu Xin's home, which she will return to daily, regardless of her activities. There must be a reason why she didn't do so for a few consecutive days.*

"I'm going to call Yang Wanlin," Han Jingru said as he took out his phone.

Wu Xin was working in Yang Wanlin's company, so he thought that the latter would be aware of Wu Xin's schedule.

"To what do I owe the pleasure, Jingru?" Yang Wanlin asked enthusiastically.

"Help me ask around if Wu Xin went to work these few days," Han Jingru requested.

Yang Wanlin had an impression of Wu Xin. He was usually quite observant toward anyone related to Han Jingru.

"Sure, I'll ask my staff and get back to you." Yang Wanlin hung up only to call back two minutes later.

“So?” Han Jingru was eager to know the answer.

“She’s been absent from work lately,” Yang Wanlin reported.

“Sh\*t.” Han Jingru cursed subconsciously. She was neither present at home nor at the office. Han Jingru thought that these were signs that something had happened to her, but he could not figure it out.

“What’s wrong? Anything I can help with?” Yang Wanlin asked proactively.

“I’m afraid she’s in trouble. Can you get someone to check the last few places she’s visited before her disappearance?” Han Jingru said.

“All right, I’ll assign some staff to do so.” Yang Wanlin would always oblige to all of Han Jingru’s requests, even if they were just some trivial matters which did not concern him at all.

“Jingru, she will be fine, right?” Shi Yan had her heart in her mouth.

Han Jingru could not assure her since Wu Xin had disappeared for several days and it was hard to predict what might have happened within that period of time.

Moreover, Han Jingru could not think of a reason why Wu Xin disappeared and that made it even harder for anyone to connect the dots.

*Supposedly, she should have learned from the two hard lessons in the past and be more mindful of ways to protect herself. Why did she go missing all of a sudden?*

# Chapter 1204

Ad



Right then, Han Jingru recalled her dialogue with Shi Yan before they left the house. *Could it be that this incident is related to him?*

*If that speculation is true, the situation might be more serious than imagined.*

“Mom, why don’t you go home first? I’ll make a trip to the Mo residence.” Han Jingru was still unclear whether Wu Xin’s disappearance had anything to do with him. However, if it turned out to be so, he highly suspected Mo Yu was behind it.

*Only a crazy and outrageous missy would do such a silly thing.*

“Okay, be careful.”

Han Jingru dreaded the powerless feeling he felt every time he was in a hurry. As a minor, he did not have a driver’s license, let alone a car. It was so troublesome for him to get around.

After hailing for a cab, he went straight to the Mo residence.

Mo Yanshang had sent people to the city where the Qi family was located to help them with the rebuilding of the family reputation. He did not delay it when following through with a promise he made to Han Jingru.

Upon deciding to get to Han Jingru’s good side, Mo Yanshang had given up scheming him. In fact, he was thinking of ways to improve the relationship between the Mos and Han Jingru.

It was rare for a shrewd street-smart person like Mo Yanshang to think in that direction. It implied how terrified he was of Han Jingru's formidable strengths.

Mo Yanshang personally welcomed Han Jingru when he arrived at the Mo residence. He was rather insecure when he saw Han Jingru's somber expression. *Something must have happened, otherwise, he won't come looking so solemn.*

"Jingru, why are you in such a hurry to meet me? Did anything happen?" Mo Yanshang greeted him in a friendly tone like a close family friend.

"I want to see Mo Yu." Han Jingru did not beat around the bush.

Mo Yanshang froze for a bit. *Didn't he refuse to be my son-in-law? Why is he asking to see Mo Yu now? Could Mo Yu have won him over with her charm?*

*If that's the case, it'd be a great news for the Mo family!*

*Then again, judging from Han Jingru's grim expression, I doubt it.*

"No worries, I'll get her here right away." Mo Yanshang replied.

After instructing a servant, Mo Yanshang asked Han Jingru, "What do you think of Mo Yu? If you're facing any difficulties in wooing her, I can help you out."

"Mo Yanshang, you'd better pray hard that Mo Yu isn't involved in this matter at all. Otherwise, the entire Mo family has picked on the wrong person," Han Jingru

retorted.

That one sentence changed the atmosphere in the room completely!

*Han Jingru has made it clear that as long as the Mo family stays in line, he'll never lay a finger on us.*

*Now, it seems like the table has turned and it's got something to do with Mo Yu!*

“What is this all about?” Mo Yanshang was puzzled. He had reminded Mo Yu to behave in order not to be kicked out of the Mo family. *Considering the current situation, Mo Yu has apparently stirred up trouble.*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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He could objectively watch Wu Xin fall into the hands of any villains, provided the matter had nothing to do with him.

Han Jingru's firm attitude made Mo Yanshang's blood run cold. He could only pray that Mo Yu was not involved in this matter, or else the consequences would be dire.

Right then, the servant returned and courteously reported to Mo Yanshang, "Ms. Mo is not in."

"Not in? Can't you locate her and get her back home at once?" Mo Yanshang reprimanded.

"The butler has tried contacting her but to no avail. Now, he's on her way to Ms. Mo's private villa," the servant explained.

"Private villa?" Han Jingru stood up. "Where's that?"

*Should Wu Xin be captured by Mo Yu, there's a high possibility she's detained in her private villa.*

*Therefore, the location of the villa is key.*

It was Mo Yanshang who gifted Mo Yu the private villa, so he knew its address by heart. However, he did not want Han Jingru to go there in case Mo Yu would be caught red-handed and he would lose a chance to justify or cover-up.

"The butler is already on his way there. I'm sure he'll bring Mo Yu back. Don't be too anxious about it," Mo Yanshang tried to pacify Han Jingru.

"Lead the way," Han Jingru said in a stern voice.

Faced with Han Jingru's deadly stare, Mo Yanshang knew he had no valid reason to reject him. Left with no choice, he bit the bullet and instructed his servant to get the car ready.

Meanwhile, Mo Yu was clueless that two unexpected guests were heading toward her private villa.

She was cracking her head, thinking of the best way to get rid of Wu Xin. Mo Yanshang had warned her not to upset Han Jingru, or she would be thrown out of the family. She grew more despondent thinking about it, for she knew that Mo Yanshang did not mean it as a joke.

*If I release Wu Xin now, Han Jingru will surely discover what I did. Once he comes after me, I'll definitely lose everything I've ever owned, including the identity as a descendent of the Mo family.*

An evil and heinous thought flashed through Mo Yu's mind.

*Kill Wu Xin!*

*A dead man tells no tales. This is the only way to sweep it under the rug forever.*

However, Mo Yu was a woman after all. She started to wimp out. As much as she willed it, she did not have the courage to do so.

Looking at Wu Xin who had been tortured grievously, Mo Yu was overwhelmed with regrets. Had she not acted rashly, she would not have landed in this dilemma. She might live to rue this impetuous decision.



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Ad



She had least expected her grandfather to value Han Jingru so much, to the extent that he was afraid to do him any wrong. In addition, her grandfather even threatened her with expulsion.

“No one will ever know that I locked you up here once you’re dead.” Mo Yu clenched her teeth.

Wu Xin’s mouth was taped and her body was covered with excessive scars. Mo Yu had scared her out of her wits due to the various methods she used to brutally torment her.

To her horror, her nightmare had just begun. The traumatized Wu Xin kept shaking her head, with the hope that Mo Yu would have mercy on her. Tears streamed down her face uncontrollably.

“Don’t blame me, we have no other way out.” Mo Yu fished out her phone.

She was not bold enough to do it herself and had resorted to getting help.

“You love me, don’t you? Come to my villa now, do me a favor, and I’m yours henceforth.”

As soon as she finished her sentence, she hung up directly without giving the other party a chance to respond.

She was very confident that her loyal aide would rush to the villa at lightning speed.

As predicted, the doorbell rang within five minutes.

A satisfied look settled on Mo Yu's face.

She had many suitors around her who were like dogs with wagging tails, often approaching her in multiple ways. The way they tried to please her had reached a maniacal point of absurdity.

Besides being captivated by her curvy figure and gorgeous face, her many suitors were also attracted to her identity. Being a member of the Mo family would relieve anyone from toiling for the rest of his life.

Mo Yu said with a smug while opening the door, "I didn't think you'd arrive so quickly."

As soon as she said that, her face stiffened because the person who was standing at her door was not her suitor but Mo Yanshang and Han Jingru.

*Why are they here?*

Panicked, her reflex action led her to shut the door immediately. *They mustn't see Wu Xin, who's in the living room.*

Yet, before she could do it, the vigilant Han Jingru blocked her from closing the door. Alas, she could not contend with him.

"What are you trying to do? This is my house. You're trespassing?" Mo Yu yelled at him.

Judging from her response, Han Jingru could utterly confirm that Wu Xin was there.

Mo Yanshang arrived at the same conclusion too and

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was enraged by Mo Yu's foolish act to disregard his forewarning.

"Mo Yu, I'm extremely disappointed in you," Mo Yanshang said.

"Grandpa..." Mo Yu burst out in loud wails as she knelt before Mo Yanshang.

She had regretted her action earlier but could not find a way to resolve it until it escalated into a disaster. She had thought about letting Wu Xin go but that would in turn alerted Han Jingru.

Mo Yanshang walked over to her and gave her a tight slap on the face. "Where's she?"



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The burning sensation on her face made her realize that Mo Yanshang had hit the last straw.

Since childhood, Mo Yu was spoiled rotten by her grandfather, who had never raised his voice at her, let alone beating her.

The slap had awoken her. She had finally come to terms with her stupid mistakes and understood how important Han Jingru was to Mo Yanshang, that blood was not always thicker than water.

“Grandpa, I was wrong. I realize my faults now. Please forgive me,” she begged.

Clenching his fists, Mo Yanshang was rendered speechless. *Mo Yu can't redeem herself just by admitting her mistakes and giving an apology. As much as I wanted to help her, the ball is in Han Jingru's court.*

Han Jingru walked past Mo Yu to enter the living room and found Wu Xin on the floor.

Bound with ropes and gagged with tapes, her face was swollen, and many visible scars could be seen all over her body.

Seeing the horrible scene, a murderous intent arose within Han Jingru.

*Mo Yu is so cruel. How could a girl commit such a vicious assault?*

Han Jingru took in a deep breath as he approached Wu Xin and carefully removed the tape on her mouth. “I’ll take you to the hospital.”

Wu Xin cried her heart out at the sight of Han Jingru because she knew that she was safe now.

Her agony and sufferings from the past few days were turned into tears all at once. At last, it was over.

Mo Yanshang followed Han Jingru to the living room. He was shocked to the bone as if he were struck by lightning when he saw Wu Xin's severe injuries.

He could only imagine the affliction Mo Yu had caused Wu Xin.

*Under this circumstance, how would Han Jingru ever let Mo Yu and the entire Mo family go easily?*

"I'll get in touch with the best hospital and doctors," Mo Yanshang informed Han Jingru.

"No need." Han Jingru carried Wu Xin out of the villa, leaving Mo Yanshang standing still, in a daze.

Although he did not react to the situation on the spot, Mo Yanshang anticipated Han Jingru's wrath in trepidation once he had taken care of Wu Xin's condition.

Mo Yanshang was infuriated when he thought about how Mo Yu's ignorance ruined his efforts in building a collaborative relationship with Han Jingru.

Even though the Mo family need not fear Han Jingru, Mo Yanshang knew that it was certainly not a good thing to offend him.

Moreover, he had yet to discover more secrets about Han Jingru, namely his identity and actual capabilities. These

were like a mystery to Mo Yanshang.

*If he's backed by more superior powers, then the Mo family is doomed.*

*It's all Mo Yu's fault. Had she not done such a brainless thing, how would this danger befall us?*

With rage and fury, Mo Yanshang walked across to Mo Yu who was still bawling on her knees.

Hearing his footsteps approaching, she was petrified to even lift her head.

"Grandpa, I'm really sorry. Please forgive me. I'll never do such a thing again and I promise to obey all of your commands," she cried.

Mo Yanshang showed no sympathy for his most beloved granddaughter at that point. In the face of greater family interests, Mo Yu was just an insignificant soul.

"Mo Yu, you've let me down. This time, I won't utter a single word even if he wants you dead," Mo Yanshang directed his dissatisfaction at her.

*Die?*

Her heart skipped a beat, followed by a frantic look on her face. "Save me, Grandpa, I don't want to die. I'm your beloved granddaughter, please help me! Help me, Grandpa!"

Mo Yanshang shook his head. *If the Mo family steps in to protect her, it might trigger Han Jingru to call upon the higher powers who are backing him. As of now, Mo*

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Ad





Yanshang did not have the slightest idea as to how strong the unknown power was. Therefore, he was unwilling to risk the entire Mo family.

"I can't save you and neither is the Mo family in the position to save you," Mo Yanshang said plainly.

*Can't save and not in the position to save you...* This reply came like a wrecking ball to Mo Yu.

*Who exactly is Han Jingru? How powerful is this man? Why would the head of the Mo family have such a reaction when faced with Han Jingru?*

Mo Yanshang's fear stemmed from two threats; Han Jingru's formidable capabilities and the Yang family's attitude toward him. He knew what kind of person Yang Bin was. If only Han Jingru was just a worthless young master in the Han family, Yang Bin would never have gone to great lengths to help develop Dynasty.

Yang Bin had always fixed his eyes on lucrative ventures. What he had in mind was most likely the backing received by Han Jingru. He wanted to utilize that same power to help elevate the status of the Yang family in Yan City.

At the hospital, Han Jingru made the doctors perform a series of thorough check-ups on Wu Xin. Although her injuries looked serious, they were fortunately mostly abrasions and bruises, nothing serious. Han Jingru could finally heave a sigh of relief.

The incident had arisen because of him. He would not be able to forgive himself if anything untoward happened to Wu Xin.

Wu Xin lay awake in the ward. She dared not shut her eyes because the traumatic experience would creep into her mind and keep playing like a broken record.

“Take a good rest. I’m not leaving yet,” Han Jingru consoled her.

“Then, when will you leave?” Wu Xin asked meekly.

“I’ve informed your boss to send someone here to take care of you. She should be here soon,” he replied.

She had encountered his cruel side and did not want to dwell in self-pity to gain his sympathy.

“Did she capture me because of you?” inquired Wu Xin.

“That’s right, it’s my fault. You can ask for any compensation,” Han Jingru replied.

His tone sounded distant and unfriendly as if he intentionally reminded her of the boundaries between them.

Just as he once told her that both of them merely met by chance and there would be no further interaction between them.

Wu Xin was indeed disappointed at him being a stranger, but she knew that he deliberately wanted it that way. There was nothing she could do to create a spark between them.

“There’s no need for any compensation. I want you to feel bad for the rest of your life.” Wu Xin was utterly honest.

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“I’m not a person who remembers favors done to me, neither will I feel that I’ve owed you. This is your last chance to be outrageously greedy and ask for any compensation. Once you miss it, you get nothing in return. I might even forget about this whole episode tomorrow.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Those words pierced through Wu Xin's heart again, reminding her of how merciless and cruel Han Jingru could be.

"Please leave now," Wu Xin asked.

"Take good care of yourself." Han Jingru left her with these words and went off.

She could not believe that he would leave her just like that. Everything that had happened felt like an illusion to her.

On the contrary, Han Jingru felt that it was the best outcome to end this chapter. To him, nothing could compare to staying alive whereas Wu Xin's injuries would heal over time. Moreover, he could make Yang Wanlin think of a way to compensate her. Even though money could not resolve every single problem, it was the most practical solution to this particular matter at hand.

All in all, Han Jingru would never ever succumb to any emotional blackmail in order to make it up to her.

Coincidentally, he met Yang Wanlin downstairs of the hospital. He brought along a middle-aged woman, who was hired to take care of Wu Xin.

"Jingru, what's going on?" Yang Wanlin had a lot of questions to ask him.

"She's in Room 17 on the third floor. You may go up to see her first," Han Jingru told the lady.

She took a glance at Yang Wanlin, who then gave her a nod to signal approval. She left thereafter.

"You know Mo Yu, right?" Han Jingru asked Yang Wanlin.

"Yes, the infamous spoilt brat from the Mo family. She's quite a bully too. Her bad reputation precedes her," described Yang Wanlin.

"I beat Yan Bingfeng in the Martial Arts Summit. Apparently, she's Yan Bingfeng's top fan. So, she kidnapped Wu Xin in order to seek revenge on me," Han Jingru explained.

Yang Wanlin was secretly delighted upon finding out what happened. *In this case, the Mo family has offended Han Jingru? This is a piece of good news to the Yang family.*

Lately, Yang Bin was worried that the Mos would get too close with Han Jingru and form an unbreakable bond. Now that this incident had occurred, the possibility of them becoming allies had been greatly reduced.

"What do you plan to do next?" Yang Wanlin asked.

"Help me think of a way to compensate Wu Xin. Other than that, mind your own business," Han Jingru responded.

Yang Wanlin was rather disappointed. He was hoping that he could tag along and witness the fight when Han Jingru went after the Mo family.

Nevertheless, he did not utter any more nonsense since Han Jingru had made himself clear that he should not meddle.

"Don't you worry. I'll see to it that everything is done

properly for Wu Xin," Yang Wanlin assured him.

"I'm taking my leave then," said Han Jingru.

"Hang on, I have something to tell you." Yang Wanlin stopped him.

"What is it?"

"I heard that there are changes to your schedule at the Martial Arts Summit. They seem to have arranged a new opponent for you, someone who has never appeared in any championship. I'm afraid somebody did this on purpose, to target you." Yang Wanlin learned this from an informant placed in the Martial Arts Summit. Nothing official had been released but the speculation seemed to carry some weight.

Though there was no definitive news yet, Yang Wanlin thought that he should give Han Jingru a heads-up.

"As expected." Han Jingru was not surprised at all.

*Since Nangong Boling is here in Yan City but did not stop by for a visit, he would probably find another way to verify my strengths. Seeing is believing, after all.*

"You know who the other party is?" Seeing how calm Han Jingru was made Yang Wanlin curious.

"More or less so. Anyhow, the Yang family had better stay away from this. The other party is not your match," Han Jingru reminded him.

The warning sent a cold chill down Yang Wanlin's spine. He knew that Han Jingru did not say that to deliberately

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frighten him. He surely had his reasons to say so.

“Sure, don’t worry, I’ll inform Grandpa about this. The Yang family won’t cause any trouble,” said Yang Wanlin.

After Han Jingru left the hospital, Yang Wanlin rushed back to the Yang residence.

Yang Bin’s expression turned solemn after Yang Wanlin shared with him what Han Jingru said. He had always suspected if Han Jingru was more than just the young master of the Han family, but had no way to verify it.

Now, Han Jingru’s remarks finally revealed some clues.

*If there ever was an individual whom the Yang family should revere in Yan City, that individual would undoubtedly be an influential and exceptionally significant figure in both Yanxia and other countries too.*

*For someone who managed to make enemies out of people in that league, Han Jingru’s identity surely is not as simple as he portrays it to be.*

*After all, a person on unequal footing wouldn’t qualify as an opponent.* Yang Bin reflected.

“I wonder who is this special guest in Yan City. I can’t wait to find out,” Yan City said calmly.

“Grandpa, shall we investigate secretly?” Yang Wanlin suggested the idea in the hopes that he could discover more details about the mysterious figure through his own means.

“No need,” Yang Bin rejected his idea firmly. He thought



that they had better heed Han Jingru's advice. *Curiosity kills the cat, if anything untoward happens, Han Jingru won't lend a hand. It's best that we lay low and wait. Regardless of who the special guest is, it'll be made known sooner or later.*

"Grandpa, is there really someone in Yan City whom we can't afford to offend?" Yang Wanlin had his doubts. Amongst the Three Principal Families in Yan City, he had not heard of a hierarchy but was aware that none of the family wanted to have an unreserved conflict with the others. He trusted Han Jingru, but was guessing if he had exaggerated the situation.

"There will always be someone greater out there. The power of the Three Principal Family is only limited to Yan City. The real supreme powers rule globally. The Yang family is not comparable to these big shots," Yang Bin said.

Yang Wanlin nodded and dropped the topic.

"Oh by the way, do you know what happened between Han Jingru and the Mo family?" Yang Bin asked.

Yang Wanlin chuckled. "Mo Yu, the granddaughter of Mo Yanshang, is a fan of Yan Bingfeng, whom Han Jingru defeated at the Martial Arts Summit. Displeased by this, Mo Yu kidnapped Han Jingru's friend to seek her revenge. She even tortured the poor girl severely. Having said that, I believe Han Jingru is on his way to the Mo residence now. Mo Yanshang must be cracking his head and fretting over this since Mo Yu has upset Han Jingru greatly."

"In that case, this is going to hurt the relationship

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between Han Jingru and the Mo family badly.” Yang Bin was over the moon. He detested how close they were and was pleased to know that things were going to change between the two.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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The tension in the Mo residence was extremely thick.

Since the arrival of Han Jingru, the entire house seemed to have been enveloped by dark clouds.

He sat there in silence; no one dared to make a sound.

Even the head of the family, Mo Yanshang, was terrified to the core.

Many of the family members could not comprehend the fact that a vicious man like Mo Yanshang would be scared of a fourteen-year-old kid.

Only Mo Yanshang knew very well that the Mo family was nothing to Han Jingru, to the extent that he could destroy all of them within the snap of a finger.

After what seemed like forever, Han Jingru spoke, "I remember telling you that I won't target the Mo family if you had stayed in line."

Mo Yanshang responded immediately, "We'll leave Mo Yu to you. She's at your disposal. The Mo family has cut off all ties with Mo Yu; she's no longer one of us."

Everyone gasped upon hearing the statements made.

*Isn't it too much for Mo Yanshang to compromise? He disregards the safety of his own granddaughter and is handing Mo Yu over to Han Jingru!*

"Dad, Mo Yu is my daughter. As her father, I'll bear the consequences of the mistakes she has made." Mo Qiyuan indicated. He was not wary of Han Jingru's background, besides his identity as the renowned worthless young

master.

“He’s not a member of the Mo family either, henceforth.” Mo Yanshang did not expect that Mo Qiyan would speak up for her daughter. His response indicated that he would not hesitate to drive him out of the Mo family.

“You’re her father. It’s your fault for not raising her properly, so you can’t escape this responsibility.” Han Jingru walked across to Mo Qiyan as he spoke.

Mo Qiyan did not falter and returned him a glare. “This is my daughter. You have no right to comment on her.”

“She hurt my friend and she ought to pay a price for that. Fair and square,” Han Jingru uttered.

“What nonsense! How could you compare my daughter with other plain folks?” Mo Qiyan seemed to have lost his mind. He started having a go at Han Jingru without considering how much Mo Yanshang valued the latter.

Han Jingru sneered at him. He had seen many typical rich and famous leading an arrogant life. In their perception, ordinary civilians were inferior to them and they could simply harm anyone and hurt others as they wish.

“As expected, like father like daughter. You didn’t disappoint me. Unfortunately, based on how you carried yourself, I can confirm that death awaits you.” Han Jingru stood in front of Mo Qiyan.

“This is the Mo residence. Don’t even think about making a scene here, Han Jingru! We can turn the Han family upside down effortlessly,” Mo Qiyan threatened him

while gritting his teeth.

“Don’t think so highly of the Mo family. I can single-handedly kill hundreds of thousands of insignificant pests like you.” Han Jingru scoffed as he grabbed Mo Qiyang’s arm.

Subconsciously, Mo Qiyang tried to fight back, but Han Jingru’s exceptional force locked him in position.

“This arm is the price that you have to pay.”

His words made Mo Qiyang trembled in trepidation. Before he could react, Han Jingru had torn off his whole right arm!

Blood spewed everywhere, giving the entire family the heebie-jeebies!

Not one soul believed their eyes, that Han Jingru actually did such a shocking thing with his bare hands.

Mo Qiyang screamed in excruciating pain.

Petrified and aghast at his cruelty, several women felt weak in their knees and slumped onto the ground, sobbing.

A chaos broke out at the Mo residence.

“Are you satisfied with the outcome?” Han Jingru smiled and asked.

Mo Yanshang was horror-stricken. At that point, Han Jingru was like a devil to him and he finally understood why Mo Yanshang was fearful of him.

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Ad



*He's not a kid but a demon!*

“You don’t have a problem with my action, do you?” Han Jingru turned to Mo Yanshang, who shook his head in response.

Mo Yanshang had committed various ruthless acts, yet, what Han Jingru did still gave him goosebumps.

He became more certain that Han Jingru was more than a mere fourteen-year-old teenager.

*Who on earth could keep a straight face and display an amazing composure after a savage attack?*

Han Jingru turned and walked toward Mo Yu.

Her face paled as she collapsed onto the ground in horror.

She had not expected her father to lose an arm for her sake, just because he stood up for her.

Initially, she thought that she could depend on Mo Qiyao to help her wriggle out of the situation. Alas, she realized that no one could save her.

“Don’t come near me, don’t...” Mo Yu repeatedly said it to Han Jingru.

“Had I not been merciful to Yan Bingfeng, that trash would have died on the stage. And you thought that my victory was dishonorable?” Han Jingru questioned her.

“No... no, I didn’t. He deserved to lose,” Mo Yu denied, shunning from supporting Yan Bingfeng.

It finally dawned on her why Mo Yanshang valued Han Jingru so much. *His capabilities are obviously better than Yan Bingfeng by many folds. With that said, why would he bother to play cheat in the championship?*

*He didn't have to!*

"Do you understand now?" Han Jingru grinned.

"Yes, I do now. I know you're way better than him. I was ignorant and foolish. Please let me off," Mo Yu begged.

It was not Han Jingru's usual practice to hurt a woman. Yet, Mo Yu still had to pay the price for what she did to Wu Xin.

"A gentleman doesn't hurt women. Is that right, Mr. Mo?" Han Jingru asked.

Mo Yanshang froze to think for a moment. He then understood what Han Jingru meant. *He's unwilling to take any actions himself but is asking for a member of the Mo family to carry out the punishment for Mo Yu.*

*It's a relief to Mo Yu from several aspects.*

*However, if it's not done accordingly to Han Jingru's standards, he'd hold grudges against the Mo family.*

Suddenly, a middle-aged woman said, "Let me do it."

The volunteer was Mo Yu's mother. At that moment, she hated Han Jingru's guts because he had handicapped her husband.

However, she knew that her resentment would not bring



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her anywhere as even Mo Yanshang could not rise to the occasion and protect the family.

She objectively felt that if she got her hands dirty, she could at least guarantee Mo Yu's safety.

"She's Mo Yu's mother." Mo Yanshang clarified.

"It's about time you educate your daughter." When Han Jingru finished his sentence, he sat on the sofa as if nothing happened. Anticipation built as the story continued to unfold.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Mo Yu's mother had no idea what she could do to pacify Han Jingru, so she had no choice but to fall back on the traditional methods.

However, Mo Yu was a spoiled brat thanks to Mo Yanshang's mollycoddling, and her parents dared not oppose her. No one but Mo Yanshang could criticize her without her throwing a temper tantrum.

In other words, Mo Yanshang had ruined Mo Yu's personality, and Mo Yu's mother had missed out on every opportunity to properly discipline her.

The best way to discipline a child was to give them a good beating, and Mo Yu's mother knew that.

She walked over to Mo Yu's side and slapped her across the face without hesitating for even a second.

That was the first time anyone had assaulted Mo Yu, and she was beyond shocked. She would have run to Mo Yanshang while bawling her eyes out if this had happened earlier, but things were vastly different this time around. Mistakes were made, and she must be punished for them.

The slaps continued, and her face swelled up just moments later.

Han Jingru stayed put on the sofa, visibly unsatisfied with how Mo Yu's mother was punishing Mo Yu.

Mo Yanshang stood by the side with a cold look on his face. He was a profit-driven man, and his top priority was to protect the Mo family's income and reputation. As a result, he no longer cared if Mo Yu had to suffer because

of what she had done.

The dark truth behind most prominent families was that familial love or even the members' lives no longer mattered when profits and reputation were on the line.

"Grandpa..." Mo Yu moaned, her face stinging from the slaps. Mo Yanshang was the only person that could save her, and she was desperate for his help.

However, Mo Yanshang was not going to give in so easily. He knew what he needed to do from the moment he saw Wu Xin in their villa, and it was clear to him that there was nothing he could do to save Mo Yu. She was a necessary sacrifice in preventing the Mo family from suffering Han Jingru's wrath.

He had spent a considerable amount of time weighing the pros and cons of challenging Han Jingru head-on, but he concluded that it was not worth it for both parties.

Firstly, Han Jingru had already established ties with the Yang family, and that would be a huge deterrent to violence against him. The Mo family would have no choice but to go into the defensive should the Yang family launch a full-on attack against them, and Han Jingru would surely stand on the Yang family's side should that occur.

With Han Jingru's current reputation, every businessman in Yan City would want to establish ties with him, which would further isolate the Mo family should they annoy Han Jingru.

Secondly, Mo Yanshang could not figure out where Han Jingru came from, or where he was headed to. He was

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reluctant to take risks, so he decided not to probe further than what was necessary.

“You’ve made a mistake, and you’ll have to face the consequences for it. I can’t save you, girl. No one can,” Mo Yanshang said coldly. He would have rushed forward and stopped Mo Yu’s mother anytime, but not when Han Jingru was around.

Mo Yu stared at him in disbelief. Without Mo Yanshang’s help, she would be left to fend for herself.

“My friend is still in the hospital,” Han Jingru said all of a sudden, rising from his seat.

Everyone turned around to face him, knowing full well that what he said next would determine Mo Yu’s fate.

“I’ll give you three days’ time to get my friend’s forgiveness. If you fail to do so, I’ll come back another time,” Han Jingru said before heading out of the door.

Getting the Mo family to apologize to Wu Xin was the best he could do for her. The Mo family would have to pay a huge price for what they had done, and it would be enough to change Wu Xin’s life.

However, whether or not she accepts that outcome was her decision. Han Jingru had given her a chance to pick herself up, and it would be an issue on her part should she miss that chance.

When he got home, Shi Yan sprang up from her seat on the sofa and asked him, “How is it? Did you find her?”

“Everything’s fine now,” Han Jingru said before telling her

about everything that had happened that day. When he was done, Shi Yan clenched her fists and cursed inwardly at Mo Yu for kidnapping Wu Xin and torturing her.

If not for Han Jingru's timely appearance, Wu Xin would have perished right there and then.

"What are you going to do now?" Shi Yan asked.

"I've punished Mo Yu, and I gave them three days to get Wu Xin's forgiveness. If Wu Xin's smart enough to catch on, she'll be able to get a good amount of compensation from the Mo family," Han Jingru said.

Shi Yan grimaced. "Are you taking advantage of the Mo family for her sake?"

"I'm not exactly innocent, you know," Han Jingru said truthfully.

"Are you sure the Mo family would agree to this? Besides, what if Wu Xin didn't catch on to your plan? She won't be able to get anything out of this," Shi Yan said. To her, Wu Xin seemed like a simple-minded girl who would never try to extort money from anyone, let alone a prominent family like the Mo family.

"That's none of my business," Han Jingru said. "That's the best I can do. Besides, I don't have the time to monitor her every move."

Shi Yan sighed. *Do you really need to draw the line between you and Wu Xin so badly? You two could be friends, even if you don't want to be lovers! Why are you going to the extremes?*

"I could never guess what's going on in that head of yours!" Shi Yan chided.

"Isn't that great? I'll be able to keep my secrets that way," Han Jingru said, chuckling.

That was something Shi Yan agreed with. Despite being a young boy, he had already established a flourishing business that ran like clockwork, which was something most of his peers would not be able to pull off at that age.

"Fine! You're the best!" Shi Yan said, giggling.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Meanwhile, at the hospital...

Wu Xin was pretty shaken by the entire kidnapping ordeal, and she would have lost her mind if not for Han Jingru.

However, whenever she closed her eyes and let her thoughts and memories run their course, Mo Yu's face would appear and make her shiver in fear.

Fortunately, Yang Wanlin had sent someone to look after her, and that person would whisper reassuring words into her ear to calm her down whenever her past traumas came back to haunt her.

Even so, her sanity crumbled the moment Mo Yu appeared at the door to her ward.

"What do you want? Get away from me! Go away!" she shrieked, curling up against a corner of the room and shaking like a leaf.

Mo Yanshang shook his head with a sigh. *Since when did Mo Yu become such a ruthless monster? What did this poor girl even go through?*

"Kneel down!" Mo Yanshang yelled. He figured that that was the only way to convince Wu Xin that they were there to apologize to her.

He would have refrained from doing so in the past, for it would have ruined the Mo family's reputation, but the tables have turned since then.

Mo Yu was very reluctant to kneel before someone like Wu Xin, but her grandfather was not giving her any



chances.

“Don’t worry. We’re here to apologize to you,” she said before falling to her knees before Wu Xin, much to the latter’s surprise.

When she was being held prisoner at the villa, Mo Yu had spared no effort in degrading and threatening her, as though her life did not matter.

The last thing she had expected to see was Mo Yu kneeling before her and pleading for her forgiveness.

Wu Xin feared Mo Yu from the bottom of her heart, but she could tell that it had been Han Jingru who forced Mo Yu to apologize to her.

The thought of Han Jingru gave her a sense of security, and she calmed down immediately.

“What would you like us to do to compensate you? We’re willing to give you anything you desire, as long as you forgive us for the sins we’ve committed against you,” Mo Yanshang said.

Wu Xin hesitated. *What do I even want?*

All Wu Xin ever wanted ever since being thrown into that hellhole was to escape, and now that she was free and safe, there was nothing more she desired.

However, Mo Yanshang’s words made it clear to her that the Mo family wanted to physically compensate her.

“Did Han Jingru tell you to do this?” Wu Xin asked.

## Chapter 1210

Ad



Mo Yanshang nodded. "That's right. He wants Mo Yu to get your forgiveness within three days, so if there's anything you would like to have, just tell us and we'll provide to the best of our abilities."

"What if I don't want to forgive her?" Wu Xin said, her already-strained smile disappearing from her face. The vengeance of a woman was nothing to laugh at, for it could turn even the meekest person into a monster, which was exactly what Wu Xin became at that very moment.

She hated Mo Yu for everything she had done, and all that hatred turned into the strength she needed to punish Mo Yu for it.

Mo Yanshang took a step back, visibly disturbed by Wu Xin's sudden change of attitude. He knew that things would only get worse if Wu Xin refused to forgive Mo Yu, and he needed a plan.

"Just accept it, can't you?" Mo Yu snarled, irritated by the fact that she had to kneel before a lowly citizen like Wu Xin.

To Mo Yu, kneeling down was the most she could do, and Wu Xin had no reason to reject her.

However, that was far from enough for Wu Xin. She needed more than just a half-hearted apology to get over her traumas.

"That's it? What kind of attitude is that?" Wu Xin scoffed.

Mo Yanshang grimaced. "Mo Yu! Watch your words! Don't add fuel to the fire, for goodness' sake! No one will

be able to save you if you messed this up.”

Mo Yu shivered when she thought about Han Jingru's threat. There was no telling what would happen if she failed to get Wu Xin's forgiveness by the three-day deadline, and she did not want to know what the consequences were.

“Did Han Jingru hit you?” Wu Xin asked, noticing Mo Yu's swollen face.

Mo Yu hung her head low and pursed her lips together tightly to stop herself from worsening things with her irresponsible words.

However, to everyone's surprise, Wu Xin walked over to Mo Yu and gave her yet another stinging slap to her already swollen face.

It was like rubbing salt on a wound, and Mo Yu flinched the moment the slap landed.

She was about to scream at Wu Xin for it when Mo Yanshang spoke up. “You deserved that! Shut up!”

Mo Yu clenched her fists to force herself to stay calm.

As the daughter of the renowned Mo family, she would never have imagined herself stooping to such a level before a girl who could not even afford to buy decent perfume for herself.

“Please continue if that satisfies you,” Mo Yanshang told Wu Xin.

Wu Xin did not bother to hold back, and she proceeded

to land a few more slaps on Mo Yu's face.

"Weren't you listening when I told you that he's coming to save me? Didn't you call him a piece of trash? Why would you concede defeat to him if he's just a good-for-nothing?" Wu Xin yelled as she continued to slap Mo Yu. She had wanted to get back at Mo Yu for insulting Han Jingru over and over again, and she finally got the chance to do so after suffering so much in Mo Yu's hands.

Mo Yu did not see all this coming as well. She regarded him as nothing but an outcast, but she had gravely underestimated him.

If she had had the tiniest sliver of respect for Han Jingru, things would have turned out a lot better for her.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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It was a heart-wrenching sight for Mo Yanshang, looking at Wu Xin trampling on Mo Yu's dignity as Wu Xin was not exactly Han Jingru but a mere ordinary woman. *How dare she do what she did in front of the Mos!*

However, Mo Yanshang could not stop her, since she had Han Jingru's support.

"How much would you like? This is your chance to change your life," Mo Yanshang asked. Knowing that girls like her would do anything for the money, he figured that giving her a good sum would resolve the matter once and for all.

Wu Xin was just an ordinary girl, and money was indeed a very attractive offer. After all, most people spend their lives working just for the money, and almost no ordinary person would reject an offer of free money.

"A hundred million," Wu Xin said without much thought. It was an astronomical amount of money, but she wanted to exploit Mo Yanshang as much as she could.

"Sure," Mo Yanshang said.

A hundred million would be unimaginable to the common folk, but that same amount of money would barely scratch the surface of the Mo family's riches. Mo Yanshang found it a reasonable price for their wrongdoings.

However, Wu Xin was shocked out of her wits.

*Did he just agree to give me a hundred million?*

*Am I dreaming?*

*What would my life become from now on?*

Having a hundred million in her bank account would mean that she could retire from work and splurge on all the branded goods of which she never had the courage to look at their price tags.

Just like most women, Wu Xin often wished that she could adorn herself with luxury goods, but her financial situation never allowed her to do so.

However, her dream was going to come true once she got the hundred million that Mo Yanshang promised.

“You aren’t kidding me, are you?” Wu Xin asked, shocked.

“Of course not! The money will be in your bank account in three days’ time,” Mo Yanshang said.

Mo Yanshang scoffed at her inwardly upon seeing her dazed expression. *As expected of the poor people to be blown off by a hundred million. It is nothing to us!*

After Mo Yanshang and Mo Yu left, Wu Xin continued to stand rooted to the ground, still reeling from the shock.

*A hundred million! That’s nine digits!*

The amount of money in her bank account had never exceeded six digits, and she struggled to wrap her head around the fact that it would be increasing to nine digits in just a few days’ time.

*How would it feel like to have so much money?*

Meanwhile, Mo Yu felt rather indignant about her

## Chapter 1211

Ad





grandfather's decision, even though a hundred million was nothing compared to the amount the Mo family had in their bank account. "Are you sure you're going to give her so much money, Grandpa?" she asked.

"You should be happy that that's all she's asking for. Also, I'd suggest that you keep your distance from her from now on. I can't save you a second time," Mo Yanshang said. He was worried that Mo Yu would seek Wu Xin out and take revenge in secret, which would only sour the Mo family's relationship with Han Jingru.

"Don't worry, Grandpa. I know what to do," Mo Yu said, forcing herself to forget the humiliation.

*I'll be a fool to seek her out for revenge!*

Meanwhile, Han Jingru received a call from Yang Wanlin.

"I need to talk to you about what happened at the hospital," Yang Wanlin said before proceeding to fill Han Jingru in on Wu Xin's decision.

Upon hearing that Wu Xin had asked for a hundred million, Han Jingru could not help but chuckle for a few moments. *I bet she just came up with a random number of the spot! Well, at least she'll be able to live a perfect life from now on...*

"By the way, any news on the Martial Arts Summit?" Han Jingru asked.

"No official news as of now, but it's pretty much confirmed that your opponent in a few days' time will be someone called Chong Yang," Yang Wanlin said.

Han Jingru was not surprised by the arrangement at all, since Nangong Boling could easily manipulate the roster in the Martial Arts Summit as he wished.

“Killing is forbidden, am I right?” Han Jingru asked.

Yang Wanlin gasped. “No! No murders allowed!”

Han Jingru sighed in disappointment. *Well, I guess I can't prove myself to Nangong Boling anymore...*

*This Chong Yang must be pretty strong to be recognized by Nangong Boling. I'm sure he'll give way if I can defeat Chong Yang easily.*

*What a disappointment...*

“Wait, what's his name again?” Han Jingru asked all of sudden.

“Chong Yang. Do you know him, by any chance?” Yang Wanlin asked.

“Chong Yang?”

“That's right. His name is Chong Yang.”

Han Jingru's eyes widened in surprise. *No wonder it sounds so familiar!*

*Could he be Qi Hu's master?*

Qi Hu had told him about a time where he trained in the mountains with his master, which led to him having the strength of a beast.

According to the timeline of events, Qi Hu must have just arrived at the mountain where he had undergone training at. However, the fact that Chong Yang would be facing off against Han Jingru in the summit would mean that he had just left the mountain.

*Looks like my rebirth has changed way too many things!*

*Is this a good thing or a bad thing for Qi Hu?*

*I wish I could meet him sooner, but he's not that strong or brave yet...*

"Is there something wrong? Is he too strong for you?" Yang Wanlin asked, worried. He regarded Han Jingru as an undefeatable presence, but Han Jingru did not seem very confident this time around.

He could not help but wonder if Han Jingru knew who Chong Yang was and how strong he was.

"It's fine. Do you know where he is now?" Han Jingru asked.

"Well... I'll try my best to find out. All I know is his name, and I don't even know how he looks like," Yang Wanlin said with a sigh. "It'll be pretty hard, but I'll fulfill your request to the best of my ability."

"No need. I'll be facing off against him in just a few days' time anyway," Han Jingru said. "It'll only make him anxious, after all."

## Chapter 1211



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Even though Chong Yang's true identity was still a mystery, Han Jingru was convinced that he would get to meet Qi Hu soon.

His rebirth could have affected Qi Hu greatly since his master's premature departure would have compromised his training duration.

After all, Qi Hu was already a martial arts master by the time he left the mountain back then, but he was merely a timid child in this timeline.

To make things worse, Chong Yang was commissioned by Nangong Boling, which meant that losing the competition would spell disaster for Han Jingru and possibly Chong Yang himself.

If Nangong Boling chose to use Chong Yang as an outlet for his anger, Qi Hu would lose his master forever.

"What's wrong? What's with that long face?" Shi Yan asked as she walked into the living room. "You aren't the sorrowful type."

"My opponent in the competition has been set. It's a master fighter that Nangong Boling commissioned," Han Jingru said.

Shi Yan's heart skipped a beat. "A master fighter? Is he strong?"

Han Jingru fell silent. *Well... he's pretty strong, but he's nothing compared to who I am now.*

"Not as strong as I am," Han Jingru said with a strained smile.

"Then? Why do you sound so worried?" Shi Yan asked, still confused.

"I'm worried for my friend, not myself," Han Jingru said. "I don't know how this battle would impact him, and I may have to step in if things got out of hand."

He did not want to change the world for the sake of it, but Qi Hu mattered a lot to him. The last thing he wanted to see was Qi Hu's downfall.

If worse comes to worst, he might have to personally step up as Qi Hu's master.

"I don't think it'll be too difficult for you to make things right if the situation calls for it. There isn't a need to worry," Shi Yan said.

Han Jingru chuckled in agreement. He could easily protect Qi Hu and change his future if needed.

"Mom, Yang Wanlin called me just now, and he told me that the Mo family visited Wu Xin in the hospital just now," Han Jingru said with a grin.

Shi Yan perked up the mention of Wu Xin. She sat down beside Han Jingru and asked, "So? What conditions did Wu Xin give?"

"Make a guess?" Han Jingru said cheekily.

Shi Yan glared at him. "Hey! Stop it with the cliffhangers!"

Han Jingru sighed. "Guess the amount she asked for. The Mo family agreed to it, by the way."

## Chapter 1212

Ad



Shi Yan raised an eyebrow. *No way! Wu Xin would never have thought of asking for money!*

“That’s...interesting. I thought she wouldn’t bother thinking of compensation. Well, since Mo Yanshang’s agreed to it...could it be a few million?” Shi Yan asked.

Han Jingru shook his head. “Mo Yanshang brought up the topic himself, but she picked the amount. You’ll never guess how much she asked for.”

“Ten million?” Shi Yan asked.

Han Jingru shook his head again while staring at her with a tiny grin.

“Was that too much or too little?” Shi Yan asked.

“Too little,” Han Jingru answered.

“What?” Shi Yan exclaimed in disbelief.

A rich family could splurge as much as they wanted, but Wu Xin was just an ordinary girl. To Shi Yan, there was no way Wu Xin would request for anything more than ten million.

“Twenty million? She wouldn’t have gone any higher than that, would she?”

“A hundred million.”

“A hundred million?” Shi Yan yelled, almost falling over in shock.

*Why would she, of all people, ask for a hundred million out*



*of nowhere?*

“You’re not kidding, are you? She asked for a hundred million?” Shi Yan asked tentatively.

“I’m not kidding, but I was a bit surprised too,” Han Jingru said truthfully. “Nevertheless, she’s a millionaire now.”

Shi Yan exhaled deeply. *She’s changed her life!*

For a member of the working class like Wu Xin, her life would be completely different once the money was transferred into her account.

“This can either be a great help to her or her downfall,” Shi Yan said with a worried expression. “Do you think she’ll be able to keep her greed in check after this?”

A hundred million was more than enough for her to live the rest of her life in comfort and luxury, and there was no reason why she should not do that after receiving a hundred million overnight.

“That’s none of our business. That’s my compensation to her, and we don’t have the right to interfere in whatever she does next.”

Shi Yan nodded. “Indeed. I guess we won’t be taking responsibility if she ended up going bankrupt.”

*I certainly hope she won’t ruin her life over a huge sum of money...*

“She’ll probably buy a huge house first, followed by a whole bunch of luxury goods. I have a bad feeling about this...” Shi Yan said with a strained smile. “What if she

## Chapter 1212

quit her job because of this? She will no longer have an income, and she could very well end up bankrupt after a while.”

Han Jingru nodded in silence. There was no point in getting himself involved in Wu Xin’s matters any further, since he had better things to do than that.

*Should I finish the battle quickly and prove my power to Nangong Boling, or should I go easy on Chong Yang?*

“Wait... I don’t know who Chong Yang is yet, so I don’t think I need to go easy on him,” Han Jingru said with a sly grin.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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“Master, is there any tasty food here?”

“Master, the mountains here are so high!”

“Master! What are those boxes? Why are they running?”

Qi Hu looked at everything in the mountains with an insatiable curiosity.

He described the skyscrapers as mountains and the cars as boxes, but Chong Yang merely looked on with a scornful look on his face.

*How humiliating! He's going to embarrass me in public one day!*

“Master, why aren't you talking to me?” Qi Hu asked as he hopped around like a little bird.

Chong Yang sighed. *I guess there's nothing unusual about his denseness. He's been in the mountains ever since he was a kid, after all.*

His patience was running thin, but he had to play the role of a caring master. “Those aren't mountains and boxes. They're skyscrapers and cars.”

“Skyscrapers...cars...” Qi Hu muttered, as though he was trying to commit those words to memory.

“Is there anything to eat around here?” Qi Hu asked.

“Of course! We'll have a feast after I've met my friend,” Chong Yang promised.

“Hooray!” Qi Hu exclaimed, leaping into the air. Eating

was his favorite pastime, and being able to try new cuisines was his dream.

After that, Zhong Changqiu arrived and took them to the hotel that Nangong Boling was staying in.

Although Chong Yang and Nangong Boling were friends, Chong Yang feared Nangong Boling because of his ability to command the market as he pleased.

When they arrived at the door to Nangong Boling's room, Chong Yang told Qi Hu to wait outside as he walked into the room.

"I'm impressed that you managed to find me so quickly. Looks like you haven't forgotten about me even after so many years," Chong Yang said as he sat down beside Nangong Boling.

"I keep a record of your whereabouts so that I can summon you whenever I need you," Nangong Boling said calmly.

"Don't you have a ton of capable fighters by your side? Why did you summon me?" Chong Yang asked, exasperated.

"You owe me a favor. Don't tell me you're unhappy about this," Nangong Boling replied.

"Fine. Who is it this time?" Chong Yang asked, throwing his hands up in defeat. The faster he could resolve Nangong Boling's issues, the faster he could return to the mountains and continue Qi Hu's training.

"A fourteen-year-old boy named Han Jingru," Nangong

Boling said.

“Fourteen?” Chong Yang exclaimed. “Are you serious? You summoned me from the mountains just to throw me into a ring with a fourteen-year-old boy? Shouldn’t you be able to deal with him yourself?”

“You probably won’t believe me, but let me explain.”

“What?”

“He has connections to Apocalypse, and he might be their vanguard.”

Chong Yang’s eyes widened and he waved his hands in dismissal. “No way! He’s only fourteen! Only people of the Platinum rank could become Apocalypse’s vanguards, so he’s definitely too young for it.”

“What if it’s true?” Nangong Boling suggested.

“Impossible, and I bet my life on it,” Chong Yang said with much confidence. He was very familiar with Apocalypse and how much it took to reach the Platinum rank.

To him, it was impossible for a fourteen-year-old like Han Jingru to reach such a high level at such a young age.

“If I remember correctly, you said that you’re not too familiar with Apocalypse, but you seem pretty confident about your knowledge now,” Nangong Boling said coldly.

Chong Yang shivered. He had been hiding his knowledge of Apocalypse from Nangong Boling, but his façade had crumbled the moment he denied Han Jingru’s abilities.

"I've told you everything I know. He's way too young for this, and the environment in Apocalypse isn't a laughing matter. Are you sure a kid can reach that rank?" Chong Yang asked.

"I don't know, but he's been doing well in the Martial Arts Summit so far. Did Zhong Changqiu tell you about him on the way here?" Nangong Boling asked.

Chong Yang had indeed heard some tidbits about it from Zhong Changqiu, but he figured that someone must have been manipulating the course of events from behind the scenes. *That Han Jingru must have been just a pawn!*

"The battle between the prominent families of Yan City hasn't died down a single bit, so Han Jingru must have been deliberately planted into the competition," Chong Yang said. "Match-fixing isn't something new to them."

"That's why I summoned you. I need you to investigate this matter," Nangong Boling said.

Chong Yang raised an eyebrow. *Why me, of all people?*

However, what he did not know was that Nangong Boling saw Han Jingru as a threat, since he knew some things that he should not have known.

For example, there was no way Han Jingru would have known about the Nangong family, yet he seemed very familiar with them when he was speaking to Zhong Changqiu. In fact, he seemed to know Nangong Boling himself too, which made the latter paranoid.

"Alright then. I don't know why you picked me, but I'll take this as a chance to repay you," Chong Yang said. He did

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not bother to find out more about Nangong Boling's true intentions, as he wanted nothing more but to sever ties as soon as possible.

"Rest assured that I'll leave you alone for good after this," Nangong Boling said with a smirk.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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After Chong Yang took his leave, Zhong Changqiu walked into the room.

“He knows too much, and he’s finally slipped up,” Nangong Boling said, staring straight ahead with a chilly look on his face.

Only his trusted aide Zhong Changqiu knew about his crazed pursuit of Apocalypse and how much he had sacrificed for that goal. In fact, he was willing to do anything just to catch a glimpse of Apocalypse for himself.

Now that Chong Yang had blown his cover, he would do his best to get as much information about Apocalypse out of Chong Yang as possible.

Despite making a promise to leave Chong Yang alone after the summit, he was going to do the exact opposite of that.

“What are you planning to do, Sir?” Zhong Changqiu asked.

“Throw him into Terra Prison after the summit,” Nangong Boling said.

“What about his disciple?”

“Why are you even asking? Find somewhere to bury him!” Nangong Boling hollered.

“Yes, Sir.”

Meanwhile, Chong Yang was wondering why his right eyelid could not stop twitching as he walked out of the



hotel.

Qi Hu, on the other hand, was too busy enjoying himself to notice his master's mood.

"Are we going to eat now, Master?" Qi Hu asked eagerly.

"Eat? What nonsense! You're such a greedy pig!" Chong Yang growled, glaring at Qi Hu.

Qi Hu was used to his master's unpredictable temper, so he obediently closed his mouth and continued his cheerful prance.

"Urgh... something's not right... what the hell does he want?" Chong Yang muttered to himself with a frown. He found it tiring to interact with cunning people like Nangong Boling, and that was the reason why he chose to retreat to the mountains.

"Master, you're really strong. Why are you scared of him?" Qi Hu asked, confused.

"I won't fear him if I'm undefeatable, but I'm not *that* strong, you know," Chong Yang said with a sigh. He was undefeatable in Qi Hu's eyes, but he knew that he would be crushed by any fighter from Apocalypse in a fight.

*Probably the only way to rise above Nangong Boling is to become a Platinum rank fighter in Apocalypse...*

Chong Yang's thoughts wandered back to Han Jingru. *He's only fourteen, and yet he's speaking like he owns Apocalypse? Why did Nangong Boling even believe him?*

## Chapter 1214

Ad



*He must have his reasons for this...why isn't he telling me about it? I have a really bad feeling about this...*

“Qi Hu, I need you to run away without looking back if something bad happens to me, alright?” Chong Yang reminded Qi Hu.

Qi Hu was a little confused, but he nodded anyway. Chong Yang had told him to do exactly that whenever he was told to do something, even if he did not understand why he had to do it. If he asked more questions than necessary, he would be beaten into a pulp with no explanation.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru was completely nonchalant about the competition the next day, since there was no way Chong Yang could win against him.

Instead, he was looking forward to meeting Qi Hu.

They had been sworn brothers before Han Jingru's rebirth, and even though Qi Hu no longer remembers him, Han Jingru continued to treasure the memories they shared fondly.

He was the second-most important person to Han Jingru post-rebirth, just after Qi Bingying.

That night, Han Jingru was kept awake by his own thoughts about the summit and Qi Hu.

When they first met, Qi Hu had been completely clueless about city life, and Han Jingru figured that he would be no different this time around.

He grinned as he reminisced about how he and Number

12 laughed at Qi Hu for not knowing what a car was, and it only made it more difficult for him to fall asleep.

Number 12 was yet another sworn brother of his, and he had helped Han Jingru on several occasions, including when he was stuck in Terra Prison.

*I wonder what he's doing nowadays...*

There were simply too many things to think about, and Han Jingru decided to rebuild his relationships with those people once he returned to Yan City.

After a night of reminiscing, Han Jingru emerged from his bedroom the next morning looking as energetic as ever, despite not having slept a wink that night.

He wanted nothing more but to get the summit over and done with so that he could return to Yan City and reunite with his sworn brothers.

In fact, the perfect opportunity to change Mo Lan's life had already presented itself to him. As long as he continued doing those shady businesses, he would not have become the owner of that snack bar, and his wife would still be alive and well.

He would never have thought of such a thing previously, but now that he had the ability to change other people's fates, he wanted nothing more but to make sure no one ends up living in regret.

"You're up early. Why don't you sleep for a while more?" Shi Yan asked the moment Han Jingru walked out of his bedroom. "Don't you have a competition today? Aren't you tired?"

“There’s too much to think about,” Han Jingru said with a grin.

“You have a competition today, Jingru!” Shi Yan repeated, worried. “Don’t tell me you didn’t sleep for the whole night!”

“Don’t worry, Mom. It doesn’t matter if I get enough sleep or not,” Han Jingru said. He was a fighter from the Alpha Stage back in Xenos, and sleep was no longer necessary for someone as strong as him. The only reason why he kept those mortal habits was to prevent himself from sticking out like a sore thumb.

“What nonsense! Humans need sleep to function!” Shi Yan chided.

Han Jingru resisted the urge to chuckle. *Humans? Am I a human or a god now?*

He figured that he was still mostly human, since it would take strength above that of Xenos’ upper limit to achieve godhood.

There was only one thing stopping Han Jingru from reaching that stage, and it was the Qilin.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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After breakfast, Han Jingru and Shi Yan came to the Martial Arts Summit.

Han Jingru went around the place with ease, since it was his third time coming to the place. He was just a nobody when he came for the first time. Even if he was recognized, everyone only saw him as the Han family's worthless young master.

But since then, Han Jingru had risen to fame after going through two competitions. Nobody saw him as a worthless person anymore. Many martial artists even looked up to him.

Han Jingru's feat of getting Yan Bingfeng, the one who could be the champion, hospitalized, was a tale they would regale whenever they had the chance. Winning against someone like Yan Bingfeng meant Han Jingru had a shot at winning the Martial Arts Summit.

Not long after he came to the summit, an elderly man with his disciples appeared before Han Jingru and Shi Yan, but judging from his amicable look, he wasn't there for trouble.

"Hello. I'm Wang Wangnian, the master of Fengling Academy," the man made a simple introduction, and his warm smile never wavered.

Fengling Academy was one of the more famous academies in the martial arts world. Wang Wangnian used to be the champion of the Martial Arts Summit, but alas, his disciples didn't show much promise. Because of that, Fengling Academy was in decline. He appeared before Han Jingru because he was interested in Han Jingru's skills. Wang Wangnian wanted him to join his

academy, saving it from its inevitable fall.

Han Jingru knew why Wang Wangnian came to see him. He wouldn't join any academies, but it also wasn't polite to refuse anyone who asked for a favor so humbly, so he didn't decline just yet. "Hello, Master Wang," Han Jingru greeted him.

Wang Wangnian smiled when Han Jingru showed humility in his reply. He thought Han Jingru would be an arrogant man, since it was rare for someone so young to be so skillful. He expected Han Jingru to ignore him, but he was surprised when Han Jingru did the opposite.

"You must know why I am here then, Mr. Han. I'll cut to the chase. Please join my academy." Wang Wangnian didn't beat around the bush. He knew Han Jingru could figure out the reason he was there, so not getting to the point would not work out for him.

Han Jingru nodded. "Master Wang, I don't really want to join any academies for the time being. I hope you can understand."

Wang Wangnian expected that answer, but hearing it straight from Han Jingru still made him feel crestfallen. If he could have Han Jingru in his academy, it would bring him enormous profits.

Wang Wangnian sighed. "Mr. Han, I know my academy might not be up to your tastes, but not to worry. If you join us, we'll do our best to provide any resources you would need. Please consider our offer."

"Wang Wangnian," someone called him out of the blue, and in came another elderly man with his disciples.

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Apparently, it was another academy's master, and by the looks of it, there was a grudge between him and Wang Wangnian.

"Wang Wangnian, you can't be asking Mr. Han to join your academy, can you? Don't you see? Your academy's failing. Even the roof's leaking, isn't it?" the man mocked.

Wang Wangnian's face fell. The man who appeared was his long-time rival. Competition was normal between martial arts academies, but that rival of his was a master of underhanded tactics, and he sabotaged Wang Wangnian multiple times in the past. The bad blood ran deep between the academies, but since Fengling Academy was no match for them, Wang Wangnian stepped back most of the time.

"You have nothing to do with this," Wang Wangnian replied coldly.

"Is that so? Well, I won't just stand by and do nothing as you try to lure someone as talented as Mr. Han into your rickety academy," the man sneered.

Han Jingru could see the tension growing between them. He knew they were there for him, but Han Jingru didn't want to get into their feud. He needed to settle business in Yan City as soon as possible, then he needed to journey to Yun City. There was no time to tarry.

"Have fun, you two. I need to go now." Han Jingru took Shi Yan and left after that.

Shi Yan huddled closer to him and whispered, "I see a lot of academies want you to be a part of them."

“They’re inviting me because they don’t want me to join any other academy.” Han Jingru smiled.

The masters were the top fighters in their own academy, and their power was the reason they could stay on top. Nobody would ask another master to join them. That would mean a shift of power and ownership of the academy. Any sane human wouldn’t want to ask someone more powerful than them to join their team.

But under the given circumstance, none of them wanted to see Han Jingru join any academy other than theirs. The invitation was a desperate move.

“Why?” Shi Yan wasn’t as clear about the situation as Han Jingru was, and his reply confused her.

“Simple. If you’re the head of the house, would you want someone better than you to join you in your little family?” Han Jingru was still smiling.

Shi Yan thought about it and shook her head. The head of the house could control everything because they were the strongest. Asking someone stronger to join them would invite trouble.

“Sometimes I wonder why you understand these things.” Shi Yan smiled bitterly. The more sophisticated his thoughts were, the more mature he was to her. But it was impossible for a fourteen-year-old boy to be so beyond his age, at least to Shi Yan.

“I have to. I’d be dead if I don’t,” Han Jingru replied. He knew more than he did at the moment than when he was fourteen the first time. Even so, Han Jingru didn’t see himself as a child even in his first life. Even then, he was

already a scheming human being.

Shi Yan kept quiet. She understood the underlying message. If Han Jingru were just a naïve boy, he wouldn't get as far as he did under the Han family's oppressive rule.

"Han Jingru is here!"

"It's him! He's finally here!"

"He's my idol! My new idol!"

Screams and cheers rained down upon Han Jingru when he came into the venue.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru was flabbergasted by the overexcited welcoming committee. He didn't know anyone in the audience seats, but the feeling was familiar. The same kind of people screamed and cheered when Yan Bingfeng made his appearance. The women were gazing at Yan Bingfeng as if they wanted to gobble him up.

But that was in the past. What was of the cheers for Yan Bingfeng became cheers for Han Jingru.

"I think they might be Yan Bingfeng's fans just a short while back. Wow, didn't take much for them to change." Han Jingru was amused. *These fans aren't loyal. They can change at the flip of a switch. I can still remember them cheering for Yan Bingfeng in the last match.*

On the other hand, Shi Yan was beaming. She loved it when everyone was idolizing her son. *Maybe I can get Jingru a wife among the ladies here.* "Why? Aren't you happy?" Shi Yan asked.

Han Jingru shook his head dismissively. "Why should I be? Not like their cheers can help me win."

Shi Yan rolled her eyes. Han Jingru was mature beyond his age, and he knew a lot, but one thing that irked her was his ineptitude in relationships. Most men would kill to get the cheers from the women, but Han Jingru shrugged them off.

"Keep this up and you'll be single for life," Shi Yan mocked. *The girl must be blind to be this boy's girlfriend.*

*Single for life? Not going to happen.* He already knew who his wife was in the future, and they were married once in another universe.

"You're wrong, mother. My wife is going to be the prettiest of them all." Han Jingru smiled.

Shi Yan pouted in disdain, though that was only on the surface. Deep down, she shared Han Jingru's sentiment. *Of course she's going to be gorgeous. That's the only kind that can match my son.*

"I love you, Han Jingru!"

"You're my idol, Han Jingru!"

"Can I marry you?"

As the women started to confess, Han Jingru started having a splitting headache. He thought it was bad enough in his last life, but women were clinging to him even worse after his rebirth. Sometimes he wondered what he did for women to love him so much.

On the other hand, Shi Yan's grin widened as Han Jingru got troubled by the confessions. Her son being popular with women was something she could flaunt.

Unfortunately, she stopped keeping in touch with her friends after leaving the Han family. Even if she wanted to flaunt, there was nobody there for her.

At the same time, an old man and a child came into the venue. They had no entourage, but Han Jingru noticed them the moment they came in.

Chong Yang was younger than when Han Jingru met him in his past life, whereas Qi Hu was only a child. Even so, one look was all Han Jingru needed to recognize them.

Qi Hu was smaller than his adult counterpart, though still

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built bigger than his peers.

It was then Shi Yan noticed a problem. Han Jingru didn't smile even when the women were confessing to him, but he was smiling at a pair of men.

Her heart sank. *I-Is my son gay? Does he not like women? Is that why he's smiling so affectionately at boys?* The idea of her son being gay almost ruined her. She knew everyone had the right to free love, but she couldn't accept her son being gay.

"Why are you smiling, Jingru?" Shi Yan blurted.

"Nothing. I saw my opponent for the day," Han Jingru replied.

"Your opponent? That boy's your opponent?" Shi Yan asked.

"No. It's that man, Chong Yang. He's a decent fighter, and that boy is his disciple, Qi Hu," Han Jingru explained.

It was normal for the contenders to find out about their opponents, so Shi Yan didn't think much about it, though the way her son was looking at Qi Hu worried her.

"Do you know that boy, son?" she queried.

"Not at the moment, but we'll be best buddies in the future," an answer tumbled out of his mouth.

*Oh, so they'll be brothers.* Shi Yan heaved a sigh of relief. *As long as they aren't lovers.*

Han Jingru didn't know about his mother's wild

imagination. He would be shocked if he did though.

At the same time, another person who caught Han Jingru's attention appeared.

He kept a low profile, and there were no bodyguards around him. He looked like a normal man, and possibly the most normal among everyone. Even so, Han Jingru knew that the man was Nangong Boling.

He made a low profile appearance so he could see how Han Jingru would perform in the ring, but unbeknownst to him, Han Jingru had already recognized him.

Nangong Boling kept the fact that he was the head of the Nangong family well hidden. Aside from the Nangong family, not more than ten people in the world knew what he looked like.

"Nangong Boling is here," Han Jingru said.

After being regaled about Nangong Boling's incredible feats by her son, Shi Yan was curious about Nangong Boling. "Where is he?" she quickly asked.

"Relax. He'll come to me after the competition has ended. You can see him better than," Han Jingru answered.

Shi Yan nodded, but she didn't question further.

The venue was almost filled with the audience ten minutes before the start of the competition. Every prominent family and Martial Arts Hall in Yan City were there to watch. The appearance of Nangong Shuxian alone showed how prominent the competition was.



Everyone knew the competition was designed to test Han Jingru, and his opponent must be a formidable one. That fact excited the audience, and they wanted to see how well Han Jingru would perform.

Some of the audience knew who Chong Yang was, and they knew his strength. The additional detail only served to pique their curiosity more.

Chong Yang used to be a famous figure in the martial arts world. He used to challenge countless Martial Arts Hall and won. If anything, that was a testament to his skills.

Everyone said that Chong Yang had retired, and his return attracted those who wanted to watch him fight again. More than that, they wanted to know the person who managed to make Chong Yang come out of retirement just to fight him.

“Whoa, this place is packed, master. You won’t embarrass me, will you?” The sight of the audience made Qi Hu blurt out something that froze Chong Yang in place.

Chong Yang smacked his disciple on the head. “I’ll show you how a fighter fights in a moment.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Chong Yang was the strongest man Qi Hu had ever known. He only teased his master as payback, since he would frequently starve during his training. Because of that, he held a grudge against his master.

When it was two minutes before the battle, Han Jingru went into the ring.

His appearance sent ripples of cheers across the audience. Most of his female fans were originally Yan Bingfeng's. Han Jingru felt awkward and annoyed by the cheers, for he wasn't going to take the idol route.

Most of the people from the martial arts world didn't think Han Jingru had a good chance of winning. He might have won against Yan Bingfeng, but it was nothing to them. Yan Bingfeng was a newbie, but Chong Yang was not. He was already famous for dozens of victories against martial arts academies before Han Jingru. Chong Yang was on a whole other level.

"I wonder who asked Chong Yang to come out from his retirement. This is an unfair match."

"Chong Yang can't enter the Martial Arts Summit under normal circumstances. The one who did this must be powerful."

Aside from the competition between martial arts academies and business families, the Martial Arts Summit is an event where new blood could improve. All of the contenders were the younger generations from martial arts academies and families. Chong Yang was no young martial artist, and that fact made it an unfair match.

Nobody cared about that though. Chong Yang was only there to go against Han Jingru. As long as Han Jingru was defeated, he wouldn't take part in any other match. It worked in everyone else's favor, so nobody would object despite it being unfair.

They were more than happy to see Han Jingru losing the match.

"Can Han Jingru win this, Grandpa?" Even Yang Bin had come to see the show. In the previous matches, all he did was wait for the news at home, but he didn't do that for the upcoming match, for he had heard about Chong Yang. Song Yun knew Chong Yang too, making the match an important one for the Yang family. He could wait no longer.

Yang Bin and Song Yun had a lengthy discussion about the match, but Song Yun gave no definite answer. The Chong Yang he knew was in the past, and he knew nothing about his improvement over the years. It was impossible to know who would come out victorious.

"No point arguing about that now. I'll just watch the match. He has surprised me time and time again. I believe this time won't be any different," Yang Bin said.

At the same time, Nangong Shuxian was gnashing her teeth as she prayed for Han Jingru's loss. Only his loss could prove that her choice was the right one.

"Just get Chong Yang to kill him, Grandma," Han Yu requested.

Nangong Shuxian wanted to do that too, but the Martial Arts Summit forbade anyone from murdering their

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opponents. Even if they didn't have that rule, she couldn't order Chong Yang around either.

"He'll be crippled even if he isn't killed. Once he gets taken out, he can't compete against you anymore. Don't worry, boy," Nangong Shuxian replied.

A cruelty that was beyond his age gleamed within Han Yu's eyes, and the intent to kill his own brother consumed him. Nangong Shuxian's poison had seeped too deep into Han Yu.

Part of it, of course, was because of Han Yu's fear for Han Jingru, for Han Jingru was showing one brilliant performance after another. Han Yu only saw him as a worthless piece of trash, but when Han Jingru showed promise, he started to fear. Only Han Jingru's death could curb that fear.

Then Chong Yang came into the ring. Instead of giving off the vibe of a master, he looked nonchalant. Fighting a brat like Han Jingru couldn't even excite him. Even if he won the match, it was done on unfair grounds, and it wouldn't even make him proud.

"How did you even cross a guy like that, kiddo?" Chong Yang asked in mild frustration. If Han Jingru hadn't crossed Nangong Boling, the match wouldn't have happened.

"Are you talking about Nangong Boling? I know he's a powerful guy, but I don't really think of him as a threat," Han Jingru replied calmly.

*He doesn't think of Nangong Boling as a threat? This kid's arrogant. Even I am scared of that man. "Ignorance is*

bliss. Do you even know who he is?" Chong Yang asked.

"Head of Nangong family, and the one who controls the world's economy. Nations fall before him," Han Jingru answered.

Chong Yang frowned. He thought Han Jingru only crossed Nangong Boling because he didn't know about the power Nangong Boling held, but he didn't expect the boy to know so much.

*If that's the case, why is he backing himself into a corner? Does he really think Nangong Boling is nothing? Impossible. That man is at the apex of the world. One single command from him can shake the whole city. He can destroy this kid anytime he wants.*

"You're backing yourself into a corner here. That man is too strong for you to handle," Chong Yang said.

A faint smile curled Han Jingru's lips. *Is that so? Maybe it's true for the old me, but I fear no one now.*

"Him?" Han Jingru looked in Nangong Boling's direction. "Too strong for me to handle? You're overestimating him."

Nangong Boling was shocked when he noticed Han Jingru's gaze. *Only Chong Yang and Nangong Shuxian know who I am. Not another soul has this knowledge. So why is he looking at me as if he knows me?* That fact befuddled Nangong Boling.

Nangong Boling could take it even if he knew about the Nangong family's secret and Terra Prison, but he couldn't understand why Han Jingru knew who he was.

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A chill crept up on Nangong Boling. He finally realized Han Jingru was more than meets the eye. Even knowing what Nangong Boling looks like was no simple matter, and yet Han Jingru did it.

In other words, Han Jingru knew more about the Nangong family than he thought. Nangong Boling took a deep breath and mouth, "I'll be waiting."

Han Jingru smiled before turning back to Chong Yang. "Sorry. I have some urgent business to attend to, so I'll have to knock you out sooner than we expect."

Chong Yang frowned. *This kid is arrogant. Knock me out sooner than we expect? Does he think he can win?*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru was already poised to attack when Chong Yang was just about to retort. Han Jingru lowered his stance, getting ready to attack at any moment.

“Very well then. I will not hold back. Time to teach you a lesson. It will do you good.” Chong Yang snickered. He didn’t take Han Jingru seriously. Not even during the match. Chong Yang knew more than anyone that experience was crucial in the world of martial arts.

Han Jingru was just a child at to him. No matter how talented he was, Chong Yang knew his power was limited, for he hadn’t trained as long as Chong Yang had. Because of that, he knew Han Jingru wasn’t as powerful as he was.

The battle was heated the moment it started. The audience held their breaths in anticipation. The battle between Han Jingru and Chong Yang was monumental for them. Aside from watching how a retired pro could fight, they could even witness Han Jingru’s peak performance.

“Do your best!”

“Go for it, Jingru!”

“Kick his arse!”

The ladies who came for Han Jingru roared in excitement again. They idolized Han Jingru, so they wanted him to shine in the ring.

Shi Yan clenched her fists nervously. Even though Han Jingru showed great confidence at home, she knew his opponent was no weak man. Nangong Boling asked for



his help, and with how powerful that man was, he wouldn't ask any weakling for help.

Han Jingru even said that Chong Yang was a strong man. That fact alone made Shi Yan nervous.

"Don't lose, son. Or everything you've worked for would have been for nothing," Shi Yan mumbled to herself and looked in Nangong Shuxian's direction.

Nangong Shuxian's face was contorted with evil. Shi Yan knew that the old lady must be praying for Han Jingru to lose. That was the only way for her to vent her anger and reaffirm her choice.

When everyone was waiting for the fight to start with bated breath, silence descended upon them.

The moment Han Jingru's fist came into contact with Chong Yang's chest, the whole stadium fell into a deafening silence.

Chong Yang made no further movements, while Han Jingru stood in the same spot. He did not make another attack.

A moment later, Chong Yang's eyes became bloodshot, perhaps because of the punch.

At the same time, Han Jingru pulled his fist back and stood with both hands behind his back, leaving him open before Chong Yang.

The martial artists thought that was the best chance for Chong Yang's counterattack, for Han Jingru was full of openings. Weirdly enough, Chong Yang didn't make a

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move.

“What’s wrong? Why isn’t Chong Yang countering?”

“This is a good chance for him. Han Jingru isn’t even defending himself.”

“Why is he just standing there? What’s going on?”

The audience was confused about the match. None knew what was going on.

*They’re in the ring! They’re having a match but why aren’t they moving?*

Nobody knew the answers to those questions, but Chong Yang knew. Han Jingru’s punch almost destroyed his heart. He could taste blood coming up his throat, and if it weren’t for him holding it down, Chong Yang would have drenched the ring with his blood.

“That’s only ten percent of my power. I know you’re strong, Chong Yang, but you’re nothing to me,” Han Jingru said calmly.

All the color drained from Chong Yang’s face. He thought Han Jingru was someone the Martial Arts Summit was trying to promote. He thought all the matches Han Jingru took part in were just a show the Martial Arts Summit orchestrated.

But after receiving that punch, Chong Yang knew how foolish he was. He thought Han Jingru was weak because of his young age, but that myopic view of his restricted his imagination.

Chong Yang, in all his obstinance, thought martial artists needed time to grow, but that was only for normal martial artists. Gifted ones, however, had no such restriction.

Han Jingru was obviously a gifted one, and the genius went beyond normal comprehension. His growth was not something anyone could understand.

“What are you doing, master? Why aren’t you fighting?” Qi Hu came to the ring, looking confused.

Chong Yang didn’t make any sudden movements. Even his breathing was careful, for he must hold his blood down. Any change in his emotions would break his mental fortitude.

Qi Hu’s appearance was that trigger, and Chong Yang spewed blood across the ring, much to everyone’s shock.

When the blood had finally settled down, Chong Yang realized that Han Jingru had already retreated to the ring’s boundary. *He has both strength and speed.*

A bitter smile carved itself on Chong Yang’s lips before the mighty martial artist fell backward.

He couldn’t hold on much longer, both in body and mind. Han Jingru’s power was far superior to his. He knew there was no point in holding on. The moment he let his guard down, he lost control of his body.

Once Chong Yang had fallen with a dull thud, the audience realized what just happened in the match. *Chong Yang wasn’t just standing there not doing anything. He would have countered if he could, but he lost*

*the match the moment it started.*

*He lost to Han Jingru after just one punch.* Those who knew how powerful Chong Yang was were shaken to their core after witnessing that crushing defeat.

“H-He lost...” someone stammered, their voice trembling.

“Even Chong Yang lost so easily to him.”

“That’s just one punch. Chong Yang couldn’t even take one punch from him.”

“Han Jingru’s a beast. Or is he a god? How can someone so young be so strong?”

Chatters and gasps of disbelief rang out among the audience. When they looked at Han Jingru again, their looks of disdain were replaced by fear and horror.

They couldn’t imagine how mangled their bodies would be if they were the one facing Han Jingru, but more importantly, none of them knew if that was Han Jingru at his full power. If he were still holding back in that situation, that fact alone would make him a god among men.

“Incredible. Just incredible,” Wang Wangnian mumbled the same thing over and over again. It was then he realized how foolish he was to extend an invitation to Han Jingru. Fengling Academy was too inferior for Han Jingru.

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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Wang Wangnian wasn't the only one who had that sentiment; almost every academy's master shared his thought.

They wanted Han Jingru to join their academy, but after that match, they knew Han Jingru was on another level. He wouldn't deign to join them. Some were even thinking that Han Jingru could be the new peak of Yan City's martial arts world.

Aside from the hidden masters and those from Apocalypse, nobody could triumph against Han Jingru.

Even though the preliminaries for the Martial Arts Summit that year had just finished, they knew who the champion would be. Nobody could change that fact.

Yang Bin heaved a sigh of relief. "I knew our choice is right. This is a good thing." The more he thought about it, the smarter he thought his choice was. If he chose to stand against Han Jingru, God knew what would happen to them.

After the match, he was aware of the fact that his family was friends with Han Jingru would make everyone envious.

"Patriarch, Chong Yang doesn't seem all that strong to me," Yang Wanlin said. Han Jingru won too easily, leaving no chance for Chong Yang to show his strength. Thanks to that, he thought Chong Yang was a weakling who became a legend because of rumors.

Yang Bin glared at him. "What do you know? Chong Yang is a bona fide fighter. You know why he couldn't even fight? Because Han Jingru is simply too powerful."

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*How can people even cheer for that worthless scum? She would have accepted the cheers if they were for Han Yu. Nay, she would even be proud of it, but since they were for Han Jingru, it was nothing but humiliation for her.*

“Grandma.” Han Yu tugged at Nangong Shuxian’s shirt, gnashing his teeth. He couldn’t understand why people were cheering for Han Jingru. To him, Han Jingru was nothing but an abandoned piece of trash.

In that instant, Nangong Shuxian started feeling a hint of dislike toward Han Yu. She never had that kind of feeling before, and she knew her will had started wavering.

Han Jingru’s performance was too brilliant for Han Yu to catch up with. She started doubting her choice. *Could I be wrong? Was it the right thing to follow that old monk’s instructions? He said Han Yu is the one who can lead the Han family, not Han Jingru.*

*But now...* If Han Jingru would just say the word, the Han family would be saved from its crisis. That was not something Han Yu could do.

Nangong Shuxian also realized another thing. Han Yu needed to grow for a much longer time if he were to lead the Han family, but Han Jingru didn’t. He could lead the family right away.

“You have to help me, Grandma,” Han Yu pestered her after Nangong Shuxian’s long silence.

Nangong Shuxian took a deep breath before facing him as gently as she could. “Don’t worry, Yu. The higher they are at, the harder they fall.”

Han Yu gritted his teeth. "Yeah. And he's going to fall the hardest of them all."

Han Jingru had already exited the stage, but the roars and cheers showed no signs of stopping. Yan Bingfeng would have enjoyed the attention, but not Han Jingru. He felt nothing.

When Han Jingru was about to leave, everyone from the martial arts world stood up to send him off. That had never happened before, and it might never happen again. Han Jingru was that impactful to Yan City's martial arts world.

Nangong Boling stood up and followed Han Jingru at the same time.

A big crowd was outside, waiting for someone to come out. They weren't prestigious enough to enter, but they were curious about the sudden cheers. Everyone was looking forward to the answer to those roars.

Han Jingru stopped at a clearing not far from the stadium, and Nangong Boling came up to him. "The match hasn't started, yet you seem to have a change of mind," Han Jingru said calmly.

Nangong Boling tried to see through Han Jingru, but he failed. Han Jingru was right. He did have a change of mind. He sent Chong Yang onto the stage to test the waters because he didn't want to expose himself.

However, when Han Jingru looked at him, Nangong Boling knew that the boy could recognize him. There was no point hiding under that circumstance, and Chong Yang lost his value.

“How did you recognize me?” Nangong Boling asked, feeling puzzled. Most intelligence agencies couldn’t even find out anything about him. As the one who controlled the Nangong family’s economy, he hid his details well. Because of that, he was curious why Han Jingru could know him.

“Nobody can hide anything from me if I want to know about them. For example, I know my grandfather is still in Terra Prison.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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If it were someone else who said that, Nangong Boling would think their confidence was arrogance. He was one of the selected few who knew about Terra Prison, and he knew how powerful someone must be to know about that.

However, Nangong Boling didn't have any of those thoughts when Han Jingru said that. The boy knew too much about Nangong family and himself. That alone was incredible to him.

*Terra Prison is Nangong family's top-secret, but still, he knows about it. This boy is more than meets the eye.* Nangong Boling took a deep breath. From that moment on, he didn't see Han Jingru as a child anymore, but a rival on equal footing with him. If he were to underestimate Han Jingru, a terrible price would be paid.

"I know you why you place your pieces around the world, and why you created Terra Prison. It's all for Apocalypse, but it's just a waste of time, energy, and money," Han Jingru continued.

"Why?" Nangong Boling asked.

"Apocalypse is something out of this world. It's impossible to find them no matter what you do. The only way to see them is when they want you to."

Apocalypse was related to Xenos. In a way, it was a passageway to Xenos, and someone like Nangong Boling had no power to find out about that.

He was rich, powerful, and was on top of the world, but that was the problem. He was on top of the mundane world, the world normal humans lived in. But Apocalypse

was beyond that.

“Aren’t you a core member of Apocalypse? Doesn’t your appearance mean I can find it?” Nangong Boling asked.

Han Jingru arched his eyebrow. *This guy gets the point, and he’s right. If I want to, I can take him to Apocalypse.*

However, Han Jingru had a question, and he was already asking that in his past life. *Why is Nangong Boling so obsessed with Apocalypse? And why does he want to go there no matter what? What is he looking for?*

“What is the reason for your insistence on Apocalypse?” Han Jingru asked.

Nangong Boling kept the answer a secret in Han Jingru’s past life. He didn’t give the answer no matter how many times Han Jingru asked him, and the same thing was happening in the current timeline.

“As long as you can take me to Apocalypse, I can give you anything you want,” Nangong Boling answered.

Han Jingru took a step back in his past life because he needed Nangong family’s help. Back then, he wasn’t strong enough, but in his current life, Nangong family was something he could destroy with ease. He didn’t need Nangong Boling’s help.

He didn’t care about Nangong Boling’s offer. Han Jingru didn’t need the Nangong family to get what he wanted. He could get whatever he wished for and go wherever he wanted to.

“You know, Nangong family is nothing to me. Whatever

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you can do, I can do. Unless you tell me the reason for your insistence, you will never see the real Apocalypse,” Han Jingru answered.

A murderous intent welled up within Nangong Boling. If anyone else were to insult the Nangong family that way, Nangong Boling would destroy them in the blink of an eye. That was already crossing the line.

But alas, Han Jingru was the one who insulted them. It was not a good idea to get murderous before him. Nangong Boling was right behind Han Jingru. If Han Jingru wanted to kill him, his bodyguards wouldn't be able to save him in time.

“I know most offers wouldn't be enough, but if you tell me about Apocalypse, I can let Han Xiuzhi go,” Nangong Boling made another offer.

Han Jingru turned back and peered at Nangong Boling with a smile. “Do you really think you can negotiate with me? I know you're protected by a lot of people. Let's see... there are ten here, but they can't save you in time. Say, should I kill you before I save Grandpa, or should I capture you and make you release him?”

Nangong Boling's heart sank. The ten bodyguards that were hiding in the shadows were top fighters trained by Nangong family. They were fighters who specialized in assassinations and ambush. They were also masters of disguise, so nobody could notice them.

Even so, Han Jingru knew where they were and how many there were. In other words, they were already exposed a while ago. Once again, Han Jingru showed how great his power was.

Nangong Boling couldn't understand what was going on. *How powerful is he? Why can't anything escape him?*

"If you hurt me, then Han Xiuzhi will die right away. Wanna bet?" Nangong Boling threatened. He wasn't going to give in easily, unlike Mo Yanshang. After all, he was more powerful than Mo Yanshang was.

"A life for a life, eh?" Han Jingru smiled.

"That is true," Nangong Boling replied.

"Will you really do it though? Or did you misunderstand me? Do you think I would give in because I didn't kill Chong Yang?" Han Jingru asked.

As Nangong Boling stared into Han Jingru's face, an overwhelming pressure drowned him. Every word Han Jingru said had power behind them.

*Will I really do it? Of course not. I don't want to die here.*

"Don't force my hand, Han Jingru." Nangong Boling put on a brave front.

"Your fate is sealed the moment you stepped foot in Yan City. One, you die. Two, tell me why you're going to Apocalypse and release my grandfather," Han Jingru answered.

"What if I want to choose a third choice?" Nangong Boling gnashed his teeth.

"You can try." Han Jingru arched his eyebrow.

Nangong Boling wanted to skin Han Jingru alive. Nobody



had threatened him that way before, and nobody could pressure him so much.

*I can try? But do I really want to do it? I could die.*

Nangong Boling didn't have to courage to do it after bearing witness to Han Jingru's strength. He was worried his bodyguards might fail to save him in time.

"I can let Han Xiuzhi go, but I can't tell you the reason why I'm going to Apocalypse. At least not here," Nangong Boling made a counter offer.

"Why?" Han Jingru asked.

"You'll know why once you see it. Besides, you wouldn't believe it no matter what I say, and that thing is in the residence," Nangong Boling explained.



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According to Han Jingru's understanding of Apocalypse, there should be nothing left unknown to him. Thus, Han Jingru had reservations about Nangong Boling's words.

When he gave Nangong Boling a suspicious look, Nangong Boling understood his doubts immediately and continued, "Rest assured. I'm certainly not setting you up. Perhaps when you see it, you'll know more about Apocalypse."

Han Jingru had attained a profound level of interpreting others' facial expressions. He could tell if a person was lying or not just by observing his or her countenance. As with Nangong Boling's current expression, there was not a trace of deception.

More importantly, even if there was indeed a trap set up by Nangong Boling for him, Han Jingru was totally fearless. Nothing on Earth could pose any threat to him.

"Alright, I trust you. I'll pay a visit to the Nangong family." Han Jingru replied.

"Well then, can you tell me about Apocalypse now? What is your status at Apocalypse?" Nangong Boling asked. Even though he believed that Han Jingru was a core member at Apocalypse, he wasn't able to determine his standing or capabilities in the community.

A faint smile appeared across Han Jingru's face. *This guy is quick in taking advantage of others. He hasn't really given me any useful information but is already trying to fish for details about Apocalypse from me.*

Of course, Han Jingru wouldn't be so naive to reveal anything to Nangong Boling.

“I’ll let you know when I see that thing of yours. What I can tell you now is, I can bring you to Apocalypse and I can help you with anything you want to do but with one condition— you have to be able to contribute something more valuable to the future,” answered Han Jingru.

In fact, it was a very fair condition to both parties because none of them would be at a disadvantage. However, since Nangong Boling had traveled a long distance just to see Han Jingru but had to leave empty-handed, he couldn’t help feeling a little displeased.

“How should I trust you if you refuse to tell me anything?” Nangong Boling asked skeptically.

“If you don’t trust me, you wouldn’t have followed me in the first place. Besides, is there any other option for you than to trust me?”

This point made by Han Jingru left no room for Nangong Boling to counter. Indeed, Nangong Boling’s situation was exactly like what Han Jingru mentioned— no alternative left. In addition, Han Jingru’s capabilities and his knowledge about the Nangong family were both beyond Nangong Boling’s imagination. Therefore, just by assessing these few facts alone, he wouldn’t really be incredulous at Han Jingru.

“When are you going to the Nangong family?” Nangong Boling asked. Since they had to exchange information in order for him to get what he wanted, he certainly wished that Han Jingru would visit the Nangong family sooner.

“I still need to go to Yun City. After settling the matters over there, I would find you. Hence, you may go back and wait for me,” Han Jingru returned.

Nangong Boling was taken aback. *From what Han Jingru just said, it seems that he even knows where the Nangong family stays!*

“Do you know where the Nangong family stays?”  
Nangong Boling asked after taking in a long breath.

“Of course.” Han Jingru replied with a smile. Not only did he know where it is, but he had also been there. It was just that Nangong Boling had no idea about all these things.

It was the first time that Nangong Boling found himself actually frightened. *Han Jingru's understanding of the Nangong family is a little too deep. He actually knows where the Nangong family is based.*

An unprecedented sense of crisis started growing within Nangong Boling because his mysterious identity seemed crystal clear in front of Han Jingru. This feeling of being seen through made Nangong Boling sense an intense danger.

“The Nangong family can be considered as the most mystical family on earth. How did you know this much about it?” Nangong Boling asked in disbelief. He had spent a lot of time and energy concealing information from every aspect concerning the Nangong family. Before this, he thought he had done a perfect job on this. Yet, in front of Han Jingru, this perfection was completely shattered and the entire Nangong family appeared to be transparent.

As a matter of fact, the seclusion work done by Nangong Boling was veritably good. If it wasn't because Han Jingru had been to the Nangong family, it was near

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impossible for him to find out about all these things.

However, he couldn't be telling Nangong Boling that he had been there before.

His situation now was due to the fact that he time-traveled and was reborn in his youthful body while retaining all his memories and powers, which was why he knew so much.

However, revealing something as absurd as this to Nangong Boling, not to mention the likelihood that he would refuse to believe, and even if he chose to believe, Han Jingru would never uncover something as important to him.

Deep within Han Jingru's heart, in this current world, there was only one person who had the right to know about his rebirth secret— Su Yimo.

"That's because you have no idea about what I'm capable of. To me, the Nangong family is like living under a rock." After finishing his sentence, Han Jingru saw Shi Yan approaching him from a distance so he paced toward her. It was also time for the mother and son to return.

After Han Jingru left, Nangong Boling was rooted on the spot for a long while. The few words "living under a rock" uttered by Han Jingru were lingering in his mind.

*The Nangong family and "living under a rock"?*

*How can these two be related in any way?*

*The Nangong family is certainly not what this phrase*

*describes.*

Instead, it is one of the most powerful families in the world. Furthermore, an incredible amount of wealth and economic power were under Nangong Boling's control. Who could ever comment that the Nangong family was living under a rock?

Despite that, in front of Han Jingru, Nangong Boling could not come up with any rebuttal.

"Sir, what's the matter?" Zhong Changqiu asked in confusion as he walked toward Nangong Boling and found him startled.

"Changqiu, is the Nangong family living under a rock?" Nangong Boling asked unwittingly.

This question made Zhong Changqiu laughed aloud. *If the Nangong family is living under a rock, then this area under the rock must have been the entire world.*

"Sir, what made you say so?" Zhong Changqiu asked in puzzlement.

Nangong Boling shook his head and drew in a long breath before replying, "It's not me who said that. It's Han Jingru."

Upon hearing that, Zhong Changqiu was hesitant. *It's Han Jingru? Han Jingru commented that the Nangong family is living under a rock?*

*This...* Zhong Changqiu had no defense to offer either because the position of Han Jingru in his heart was almost equal to that of Nangong Boling. Hence, what he

said must have its own justification.

*Since he said that the Nangong family is living under a rock, there must be some reason behind it. As to what reason it was, even though Zhong Changqiu could not make it out, he would not deny its existence either.*

“Sir, have you found out his identity?” Zhong Changqiu asked.

“No. But I will definitely find out one day.” Out of the blue, a fiery glint appeared in Nangong Boling’s eyes.



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“Jingru, what did you say to him?” Shi Yan couldn’t help but ask Han Jingru curiously on their way home.

Though Shi Yan shouldn’t be interfering with these matters because Han Jingru was capable of dealing with them without having to trouble her, it was human nature to be inquisitive. And she was no exception.

“He invited me over to the Nangong family’s residence,” Han Jingru simplified everything before relaying it to Shi Yan. After all, many things couldn’t be explained clearly and he didn’t want to talk much about them.

“You can’t go.” As soon as Shi Yan heard that, her face turned solemn.

In her mind, Nangong Boling was up to no good. An invitation to visit the Nangong family might turn out to be a trap set up by Nangong Boling for Han Jingru. If Han Jingru got caught, how can he possibly come back alive?

“Why?” Han Jingru asked.

Shi Yan stared at Han Jingru and returned, “Aren’t you silly? It’s apparently a trap to go to the Nangong family’s residence. If you really show up, he’ll never let you go. It’s a set-up.”

A faint smile appeared on Han Jingru’s face. There should be no one on Earth who dared to set him up. In addition, even if there was really a trap waiting for him, it would be the other party who would lose out instead of him. Han Jingru could never be harmed.

“Mom, do you think Nangong Boling dares to try that?” Han Jingru asked.

“Why doesn’t he?” Shi Yan sounded as though she was a hundred percent sure about it. From Han Jingru’s description of Nangong Boling, he controlled the world’s economy and was even able to rival the power of a nation. With such a man, there shouldn’t be anything he was afraid of doing.

“Of course he doesn’t. Because if he has any intention of killing me, he would end up being killed himself. I’m sure he is very clear about this,” Han Jingru replied.

The confident way Han Jingru looked made Shi Yan think that she had thought too much.

Besides, judging from Han Jingru’s current performance, he was indeed very powerful. No one seemed to be able to give him a good run for his money.

“Jingru, how did you become so adroit?” Shi Yan had been very curious about this because Han Jingru was Yan Qiong’s disciple but he appeared to be much more adept than Yan Qiong.

“Mom, I had an epiphany and became a top fighter,” Han Jingru smiled as he replied.

Shi Yan could only roll her eyes at such a ludicrous remark and she then countered, “It’s not like you’re one of those martial heroes in the movies. Do you think I’m so easily deceived?”

Han Jingru nodded. It was indeed not a fictional portrayal of the martial world. However, the reality was even more incredible than fiction. If Shi Yan discovered the secret of Apocalypse and the existence of Xenos, she might not be able to comprehend.

"I told you and you refuse to believe. So what should I do?" Han Jingru asked helplessly.

Shi Yan didn't dwell on the question either. She knew there must be some reason if Han Jingru didn't explain it to her. Someday in the future, the right time would come when Han Jingru found it seemly to tell her what she needed to know.

"Oh, right, Grandpa should be coming home soon," Han Jingru uttered suddenly.

Shi Yan froze on the spot.

"What do you mean?" Shi Yan asked perplexedly.

It was then that Han Jingru realized he had let it slip accidentally. To Shi Yan, Han Xiuzhi was dead. Moreover, the cremation and burial were witnessed by everyone and she had clearly no idea about the furtive switching done by Nangong Boling.

"Don't be afraid. It's not resurrection. Grandpa wasn't even dead in the first place," Han Jingru explained.

"How can it be? I saw his body myself. How is it possible that he's not dead?" Seeing is believing. If she hadn't seen it with her own eyes and only heard that Han Xiuzhi was dead, she might not believe it. However, she was a witness. *So, how can there be any possibility of variation?*

"Actually, this was the Nangong family's deed. They had been using Grandpa as a puppet all this while. The Grandpa you saw wasn't really dead. It was the result of some drug application that made him look like he was dead," Han Jingru added.

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Shi Yan gasped in disbelief. *If Nangong Shuxian learns about this, how would she feel?*

*No one could have expected that Han Xiuzhi who has already been buried is actually alive!*

“If your Grandpa returns, the Han family would have a great change,” said Shi Yan. If Han Xiuzhi were to regain control of the Han family, its future would no longer depend on Han Yu. And Nangong Shuxian who would lose her standing with the return of Han Xiuzhi wouldn’t be troubling Han Jingru again.

Han Jingru nodded. *Nangong Shuxian’s attitude toward me changed after Grandpa left. And when he returns, Nangong Shuxian’s discriminative behavior would surely alter again.* But then again, Han Jingru didn’t care about this at all.

*Nangong Shuxian’s remorse is only a matter of time. Eventually, she will understand the real difference between Han Yu and I.* Han Jingru only wanted to see how regretful she would be. As with how she would treat him after that, it wasn’t important to him.

To Han Jingru who had been reborn, his biggest obsession, other than Su Yimo, was probably Nangong Shuxian. After all, the trauma that this grandma of his brought to his childhood was so great that Han Jingru was still unable to take it lightly with his current mentality.

Not long after they returned home, Han Jingru received a call from Yang Wanlin.

Yang Wanlin seemed particularly thrilled because, after

this round of competition, the calls that Han Jingru would become the champion grew more vociferous. There were even a lot of people who believed firmly that Han Jingru would be the champion of the year's Martial Arts Summit because none of the other contestants could rival Han Jingru.

"Jingru, you're now the champion in everyone's eyes. You're simply marvelous!" Yang Wanlin exclaimed.

Han Jingru was not even a little excited about this matter because from the moment he decided to join the competition, the result was predetermined. It was just that these people only realized it later.

"So it seems that many people would quit the remaining rounds?" asked Han Jingru.

"That's for sure. With your skills, who would dare to fight with you? I guess you can even enter the final round directly." Yang Wanlin laughed as he answered. Even though he hadn't received any news regarding that, such a situation was predictable. Besides, until people started to discover Chong Yang's identity, they would realize how powerful Han Jingru was and wouldn't dare to fight with him anymore.

"Alright, I can finally rest for a while now," Han Jingru replied.

"Are you free tonight? Patriarch wants to invite you over for dinner," Yang Wanlin asked. This was the actual reason he was calling Han Jingru and it was Yang Bin himself who told him to do so.

Han Jingru had to pay some respect to Yang Bin

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because after all, the development of Dynasty still had to depend on Yang Bin. Therefore, he agreed to it.



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In actual fact, the development of Dynasty was not something of key importance to Han Jingru anymore and even its existence was not really needed. However, Earth was after all a world that attached great importance to the economy. Not needing it then didn't mean it wouldn't come into use in the future. Especially after his visit to Yun City, one thing he learned was that matters that couldn't be solved with fists showed how important money was. Hence, he became more concerned about Dynasty's growth.

Han Jingru knew very well that for a materialistic woman like Jiang Yan, money was the best solution in dealing with her. Therefore, apart from being a top fighter, he had to be wealthy.

"Mom, will you go with me to the Yang residence tonight?" After ending the call, Han Jingru asked Shi Yan.

"Me?" Shi Yan paused for a while and then shook her head. "I'm not going with you."

Han Jingru could see that Shi Yan was a little nervous. He smiled and returned, "Mom, Han Jingru is your son. They would have to be nice and respectful to you when we visit the Yangs. It should be them who should be tense, what are you being edgy for?"

Shi Yan was a little embarrassed so she quickly covered up for herself. "You're right. Han Jingru is my son. What is there to be nervous about? It's just that I don't want to disturb your dealings with them."

"Well, since you're not nervous, come with me then. We're only going there for dinner, nothing serious." Han Jingru said with a smile. Currently, the cooperation



between Dynasty and the Yang family had officially commenced. The reason Yang Bin invited him over was only to bond.

“Alright then. Anyway, I should be going to the Yang residence in a formal outfit, right? I can’t embarrass you. But all my formal clothes were still at the Han residence.” Shi Yan left the Han family in haste and only managed to bring some ordinary clothes with her. To her, these clothes were indecorous for a dinner.

“Need not worry. No matter what you wear, we’re the honorable guests of the Yang family. If they dare being remiss, I’ll make them pay for it,” answered Han Jingru.

Shi Yan lamented in secret. *That’s the Yang family we are talking about! Even if it’s Nangong Shuxian paying a visit to the Yang residence, she wouldn’t dare to bear this thought.*

*But now, Han Jingru can’t care less about it. That shows how one’s mentality is determined by his status.*

*Nangong Shuxian might never be able to understand what this even feels like.*

Shi Yan couldn’t help putting herself in Nangong Shuxian’s shoes. *If I were Nangong Shuxian, how would it feel like facing the current situation? I might have regretted it to the bone!*

“Jingru, you’re my brilliant son. I’m so proud of you,” Shi Yan said as tears started welling up in her eyes. Her heart twinged at the thought of how unfairly Han Jingru was being treated in the Han family but when she saw how successful Han Jingru had become, she couldn’t

help but wonder at how life turns out.

“Well, I have a very long list of things you will be proud of. Crying now is just too early,” Han Jingru uttered with a smile.

Shi Yan nodded repeatedly as she brushed away her tears.

When it was almost time for dinner, Shi Yan changed into the outfit she thought to be the most befitting. After all, it was the Yang family they were visiting and she was going there with Han Jingru. She didn't want to embarrass her son.

On the contrary, Han Jingru dressed very casually. However, he didn't mind about his image and an outfit never meant anything to him. Plus, with his current identity and status, others wouldn't care about the way he dressed as well.

When they reached the Yang residence, Yang Wanlin was already waiting at the door.

Seeing as Han Jingru got out of the cab, he quickly paced toward them.

The cab driver was cracking a joke with Han Jingru, saying that he had never seen anyone taking a cab to come to the Yang residence. He even thought that Han Jingru was only passing by but deliberately asked him to drop him off at the Yang residence to flaunt his identity.

It was until the driver saw Yang Wanlin that he realized how prominent Han Jingru must be for Yang Wanlin to receive him himself.

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“Jingru, let me arrange a driver for you. It would be more convenient that way no matter where you go,” Yang Wanlin said with a smile to Han Jingru. He had started to regard Han Jingru’s affairs as his own and was even more concerned about Han Jingru than himself.

Not having a car was indeed something troublesome for Han Jingru but he hadn’t reached the age to own a driver’s license just yet.

Despite that, he rejected Yang Wanlin’s suggestion because having a driver arranged by the Yang family to follow him around was equal to his whereabouts being monitored in real-time. Han Jingru didn’t want to be surveilled by the Yang family.

“It’s not needed, taking a cab is quite convenient as well,” Han Jingru replied.

Yang Wanlin understood Han Jingru’s concern so he didn’t carry on with the subject.

After the three of them entered the Yang residence, the cab driver was still dumbfounded on the spot, wondering who the kid was to have such a prime status which made the Yangs wait purposely at the door to welcome him. However, he couldn’t seem to come to a finite conclusion. Hence, he could only remind himself, “I must never look down upon anyone from now on.”

Han Jingru didn’t see any other people after stepping into the Yang residence. When he reached the dining hall, there was only Yang Bin alone. It was like the other members of the Yang family had vanished into thin air.

It was unknown to Han Jingru that, in order to host him

and to avoid making him feel bothered and uncomfortable, Yang Bin had specifically cleared the residence and asked each and every Yang family member to not return home until they received a phone call from him. It was perceptible from this matter alone how highly Yang Bin had come to regard and appreciate Han Jingru.

“Jingru, the competition today was fascinating. I was still thinking about it just now,” Yang Bin said to Han Jingru with a broad smile on his face.

*Fascinating?*

Such pleasantries almost made Han Jingru laugh aloud because he ended the fight in the shortest time possible. There was nothing interesting at all in such a short duration.

“Patriarch, you’re making me blush. There’s totally nothing fascinating about it,” replied Han Jingru.

Yang Bin shook his head lento and returned, “How could it not be exhilarating? You had no idea how long the cheers at the place lasted after you left. Almost everyone believes you’ll be the champion of the year’s Martial Arts Summit now. And as far as I’m concerned, even those martial arts academies are of the same opinion, and no one dared to take the championship trophy away from you.”

That was true. After Han Jingru left, the heated atmosphere at the summit lasted for a long time. The martial arts academies dared not comment that their contestants were able to defeat Han Jingru. Their current plans were very reserved. Without encountering

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Han Jingru, they would fight their best for a better place. As for the champion, it was not something they dared set their eyes on.

Meanwhile, if they happened to encounter Han Jingru during the competition, they would quit the game without a second thought. This was the plan of almost every martial arts academy.

“Jingru, you’ve got yourself multiple fans now. They are treating you as their idol. And I even heard that some young maidens are asking around for your address. I suppose many are preparing to throw themselves at you.” Yang Wanlin laughed.



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For ordinary men, it was indeed an exciting experience when pretty women took the initiative to impress them. However, it was never the case with Han Jingru because he had never looked forward to such encounters. Instead, it would only give him a headache to have too many women around.

“If you like them, you can help me fend off these romantic flukes,” Han Jingru said to Yang Wanlin.

In fact, Yang Wanlin hoped he could have such opportunities as well. Even though he had never met any obstacles in romantic relationships because of his identity as an heir of the Yang family, there were still certain women beyond his reach. Besides, he knew his own limitations very well, and with his capabilities, he could never replace the position of Han Jingru in those women’s hearts.

“Jingru, you should stop cracking these jokes on me. How can I help you with such a thing? You are the only man in these women’s eyes, who am I kidding?” Yang Wanlin smiled wryly.

Listening to these words made Shi Yan feel glad internally. Even someone like Yang Wanlin was being humble in front of Han Jingru. That showed how remarkable Han Jingru was.

Han Jingru shook his head helplessly. *It looks like I have to leave Yan City sooner. I have no time and energy to deal with so many women coming at me.*

“Sir, do you have any new arrangements for summoning me over tonight?” Han Jingru asked Yang Bin.

“There’s no arrangement. I simply wanted to invite you over for dinner together. We haven’t seen each other for a long time.” Yang Bin replied with a smile.

Han Jingru was already famous and countless people would fight just for the opportunity to cooperate with him. Thus, if the Yang family came short of making Han Jingru satisfied, they might be abandoned by Han Jingru. It was precisely due to this concern that Yang Bin had personally arranged to bond with Han Jingru.”

Socialization and networking could be tedious and complicated. Then again, it depended on who the other person was as well. With Han Jingru, even an old sly fox like Yang Bin had to be meticulous.

Han Jingru gave him a smile. He understood Yang Bin’s concern. In fact, at present, his connection with the Mo family was pretty good as well and Yang Bin was certainly worried that he might get too close with the Mos.

Nevertheless, the fact that Yang Bin had such a sense of crisis was fabulous news to Dynasty. This would motivate Yang Bin to spare no effort in helping Dynasty.

“Oh right, I’ve heard some rumors which have yet to be verified,” Yang Bin started.

“What is it about?” asked Han Jingru.

Yang Bin raised his eyebrows and returned, “I heard that you’re going to be the son-in-law of the Mos. Mo Yanshang even said that you can pick any girl from the Mo family and if you’re dissatisfied in the future, you can even replace her with another one.”



When Yang Bin came to know about this, he was mad about the fact that there were not many girls in the younger generation of the Yang family and he knew very well himself that Han Jingru would never even lay his eyes on the only two girls in the family.

Yang Bin who had deep-rooted patriarchal thinking of favoring boys over girls learned for the first time in his life the importance of having heiresses in the family. Nonetheless, it was too late to have this realization.

After all, if he could make Han Jingru the son-in-law of the Yang family, their connection would surely be stronger.

“It’s true indeed but I didn’t agree,” replied Han Jingru. This discussion that occurred between him and Mo Yanshang was considered a private and confidential conversation. It was astonishing for Han Jingru to know that the news had actually reached Yang Bin’s ears. *It seems like the Mo family has been infiltrated by Yang Bin’s informer.*

Yang Bin heaved a sigh of relief. *It turns out that Han Jingru didn’t agree. That’s great because I don’t need to worry now if Mo Yanshang has a stronger standing than me in Han Jingru’s mind.*

“Sir, you’re not calling me over for dinner just because of this matter, are you?” Han Jingru asked.

Even though verbally, Yang Bin had mentioned the purpose of the dinner was to catch up with Han Jingru, in reality, it did have much to do with this matter. He wanted to confirm the veracity of the news. And at that particular moment when Han Jingru pointed this out, he

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was rather abashed.

“You’re right. I’m afraid you’re still clueless about what kind of a status you’re having right now and how important you are in the eyes of the Three Principal Families of Yan City. If you become the son-in-law of the Mos, I would be extremely distressed.” Yang Bin didn’t deny it and instead, he admitted with a wry smile.

Han Jingru couldn’t help but find it amusing. In fact, he hadn’t the slightest idea that he actually meant so much to the Three Principal Families that even this patriarch of the Yangs would be concerned about such trivial matters.

“Jingru, presently, even the Wang family is trying to get to you. Besides, the head of the Wang family knew that Wang Linqi had a conflict with you and was already thinking of ways to make Wang Linqi apologize to you.” Yang Wanlin managed to add in a piece of information according to his latest intel. Before this, Wang Linqi looked down on Han Jingru and even offended him. After the head of the Wang family, Wang Li learned about it, he had berated Wang Linqi for it and specifically ordered him to apologize to Han Jingru and to seek his forgiveness.

At the moment, Wang Linqi must be thinking of ways to make an apology to Han Jingru because Wang Li had made it very clear that if Wang Linqi couldn’t get Han Jingru’s forgiveness, he would be chucked off the family.

“It does seem that I’m quite capable as I’m able to make the Three Principal Families regard so highly of me,” Han Jingru said with a smile.

Shi Yan was the person who was most touched by this discovery. *He has been neglected and was never taken seriously by the Han family for many years. Neither was anyone in the family ever really concerned about him while Nangong Shuxian even treats him as a waste of space.*

*Despite all these, after leaving the Han family, he has become a pre-eminent figure even the Three Principal Families strives to impress.*

*One must know that in the business world in Yan City, the Three Principal Families are of top-notch. It is simply unprecedented for anyone to be simultaneously valued by all the Three Principal Families.*

*Will it be too late to repent when Nangong Shuxian finds out about all these matters?*

Shi Yan was of the opinion that Nangong Shuxian would be immensely remorseful eventually and it wouldn't be long before that.

However, Nangong Shuxian was far more obstinate than Shi Yan had imagined.

In fact, the current Nangong Shuxian recognized Han Jingru's excellence within her heart. After all, it was an undeniable fact that couldn't be overturned just with her words alone.

Still, she never thought of letting Han Jingru lead the Han family. Instead, she yearned for Han Jingru's death so that Han Yu could thrive.

At a five-star hotel, Nangong Shuxian and Han Yu were waiting at the entrance.

## Chapter 1224

“Grandma, what are we coming here for?” Han Yu asked perplexedly. He should be playing games at home at this hour and not yanked by Nangong Shuxian from home. This made him very displeased.

“Nangong Boling is staying here. If we want Han Jingru to die, only he can help us,” Nangong Shuxian replied dispassionately.

Han Yu was not bothered at all. “I still need to rush home to play games. Can’t we come back another day? Let Han Jingru live for two more days.”

Upon hearing that, Nangong Shuxian turned around and stared ferociously at Han Yu.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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As Nangong Shuxian doted on Han Yu a lot, she rarely lost her temper at him. However, when she heard that, she could not hold her anger back anymore.

*Even at this critical juncture, all Han Yu's thinking about is games!*

*Doesn't he felt pressured yet? Hasn't he realized that his position was being threatened by Han Jingru?*

*When faced with such a huge crisis, everything on his mind is games. Is he completely hopeless?*

Nangong Shuxian slapped Han Yu's cheek forcefully.

She would never allow herself to be defeated because of him. Even if he was actually useless, she needed to go to all lengths possible to make him outshine the others.

Clutching his cheek that had been slapped, Han Yu's eyes widened in disbelief.

*Grandma hit me?*

Since young, Han Yu had never been beaten. Even if he had committed a mistake and infuriated Han Ying and Shi Yan, he had Nangong Shuxian backing him up. Hence, he was used to being sheltered by her. He knew that as long as she was there, he would be safe from any punishments.

However, never in a million years did he expect that Nangong Shuxian would be the first person to hit him.

"Grandma, you slapped me?" asked Han Yu incredulously.

Nangong Shuxian did not feel heartbroken at all. At this juncture, she should let Han Yu realize the severity of this issue. If she continued being so lenient with him, they would be faced with the worst outcome.

“At such a critical juncture, all you think of is games. Of course I had to slap you! Do you know that Han Jingru is much more outstanding than you now? If all you care about is games, how can you defeat him?” spat Nangong Shuxian through gritted teeth.

Tears brimmed in Han Yu’s eyes. As he had never been on the receiving end of such grievances, this slap hurt terribly.

However, he was not stupid too. It was obvious from Nangong Shuxian’s attitude that she was truly angry. If he insisted on being stubborn, he might end up in a worse state.

“I’m sorry, Grandma. I know my mistake,” mumbled Han Yu as he lowered his head guiltily. He clearly knew how he should relieve Nangong Shuxian’s anger. After all, he was most skilled at winning her favor.

As Han Yu was repenting earnestly, Nangong Shuxian’s hostility faded significantly. Stroking his head, she explained, “I didn’t hit you for no reason. I want you to understand that situation we’re in now. Do you want to let Han Jingru lord over you from now on?”

Han Jingru shook his head firmly. As he had always looked down on his useless brother, he naturally could not accept Han Jingru lording over himself.

“Don’t worry, Grandma. I will not disappoint you. I’ll

## Chapter 1225

Ad





definitely perform better than Han Jingru,” promised Han Yu.

This matter seemed to be a long wait. After all, with Han Jingru’s current status in Yan City, Han Yu could never be a match for him. However, Nangong Shuxian was more than willing to believe in Han Yu.

At that moment, the person she had been waiting for finally appeared.

Nangong Boling and Zhong Changqiu were preparing to exit the hotel and leave Yan City.

Nangong Boling had already verified Han Jingru’s capabilities and status, so he had no doubts about that. Furthermore, Han Jingru also agreed that he would visit the Nangong family. Hence, staying at Yan City further was simply a waste of time for Nangong Boling.

“What are you doing here?” he asked calmly as he walked toward Nangong Shuxian.

“I’m willing to help you do anything, with the condition that Han Jingru dies.” Nangong Shuxian directly stated her intention, which was to kill Han Jingru. She no longer harbored any familial love for her biological grandson.

“You want Han Jingru to die and let this useless person become the heir of the Han family, right?” scoffed Nangong Boling with a look of disdain. He was extremely clear about the Han family’s internal affairs and how much Nangong Shuxian valued Han Yu. Unfortunately, Han Yu was truly a useless piece of trash to him. Even if he inherited the Han family, it would be ruined in his hands.

More importantly, Han Yu was not capable enough to be a match for Han Jingru.

When Nangong Shuxian heard him describe Han Yu as a piece of useless trash, she was displeased. However, not showing it outwardly, she continued, "I believe that Han Yu will do a better job than Han Jingru. If Han Jingru dies, he can become your puppet and help you with anything."

"Hahaha!" Nangong Boling could not help but burst into laughter when he heard it.

*Puppet?*

*Help me with anything?*

*What can a useless person like Han Yu accomplish?*

*It's simply hilarious to kill Han Jingru in exchange for a useless puppet-like Han Yu.*

"It's your own problem that you're still being so disillusioned, Nangong Shuxian. However, Han Jingru is a thousand times more valuable to me than this useless trash you have beside you. Is he even worthy enough to be my puppet?" Nangong Boling's condemnation of Han Yu was harsh. To be honest, Han Yu was just a worthless pile of crap to him.

"While Han Jingru will not be an obedient puppet, Han Yu is different. He'll be absolutely loyal to you. He'll risk his life to achieve anything that you want him to do," persuaded Nangong Shuxian. Although she knew how tormenting it was to become a puppet and was unwilling to bring Han Yu onto this path, she had no other options

anymore. If Han Jingru remained alive, Han Yu, the Han family, and herself would be utterly humiliated. She could never accept this.

“Get lost with this useless person. His loyalty is nothing to me. I don’t need trash like him,” stated Nangong Boling firmly.

“Sir, please give him a chance!”

As she spoke, Nangong Shuxian fell onto her knees forcefully and knelt on the ground.

In order to salvage Han Yu, she had completely given up on her pride and knelt at the entrance of the hotel. Due to her special status, news about this would quickly make its rounds, humiliating her greatly. However, the fact that she still did it was proof of how much she was willing to sacrifice for Han Yu.

If she had woken up to the truth earlier, she would not have needed to go to such lengths. Han Jingru had the ability to bring the Han family to greater heights of glory. Unfortunately, she was unwilling to admit her mistake.

“Will kneeling down prove useful? Not only do I think that he’s a piece of trash, but you’re also similarly useless, Nangong Shuxian. Kneeling means nothing to me.” Nangong Boling left right after speaking.

Nangong Shuxian was completely filled with despair. If she could not get Nangong Boling’s help, how could she kill Han Jingru?

At that moment, a person in disguise walked towards Nangong Shuxian sneakily.

## Chapter 1225



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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"I didn't expect the mighty Nangong Shuxian to actually kneel to someone," mocked the mysterious person after approaching her.

As she was feeling extremely humiliated, she became infuriated upon seeing that someone was making fun of her.

"Who are you to mock me?" demanded Nangong Shuxian coldly as she stood up.

The person was wearing a cap low over his face, so she could not make out his features at all. However, she noticed a mocking smile playing on his lips.

"I can help you with what he refused," offered the person.

Nangong Boling smirked coldly. Although she was unwilling to admit it, Han Jingru's current position in Yan City was unparalleled. Other than Nangong Boling, no one else was capable enough to deal with him.

Yet, this man who appeared out of nowhere dared to make such audacious claims.

"Who do you think you are? Han Jingru's being protected by the Yang family and Mo family now. How can you possibly oppose him?" asked Nangong Shuxian.

"With the forces backing me up. I'm sure that you know what happened to the Yao family, right?"

When she heard him mention the Yao family, she frowned.

She had heard some news about Yao Hanxing in S

Nation. He went to all lengths possible to solve that issue, but everything proved futile. Rumors had it that it had something to do with Han Jingru, but Nangong Shuxian did not believe it. According to her intel, Yao Hanxing had offended a particular assassin organization in S Nation. It was impossible for Han Jingru to solve something that concerned an assassin organization like that.

“I know about the Yao family. Who are you?” asked Nangong Shuxian.

“I’m a member of an assassin organization. Han Jingru has provoked us, so we’ve decided to kill him. However, we met some minor obstacles and would like your help,” explained the person.

Nangong Shuxian was slightly tempted by the offer. She did not expect to find an opportunity in this seemingly hopeless situation.

As Nangong Boling refused to help, she thought that she could only stand and watch while Han Jingru rose to greater success. However, this sudden turn in events meant that she still had a chance to stop him.

“Why should I believe you?” asked Nangong Shuxian.

“Han Jingru has declared war on us because of the Yao family. Since both of us want him to die, isn’t this the perfect reason for us to collaborate? It’s up to you whether you want to believe me or not,” he replied.

“Are you saying that Han Jingru really solved the Yao family’s problem?” asked Nangong Shuxian in astonishment.

“Solved? We were just careless. Who is he to defeat us?” he scoffed disdainfully.

Although she did not know if it were truly because of carelessness, she could now be certain that Han Jingru was actually capable enough to help the Yao family.

“How would you like me to help?” asked Nangong Shuxian. As long as she could kill Han Jingru, she did not mind who she had to collaborate with.

“I’ll contact you later. Since we are striving toward a common goal, I hope that we’ll have a great collaboration.” With that, the person left.

Nangong Shuxian glanced at Han Yu, unable to help but compare him to Han Jingru. In terms of accomplishments, Han Jingru had already far surpassed him. While Han Yu was still preoccupied with games, he was already powerful enough to oppose an assassin organization. Furthermore, it was evident that the organization had suffered a huge loss due to him.

Nangong Shuxian could not suppress a sigh. This did not mean that she was disappointed in Han Yu, but that she had accepted the unchangeable reality that he would never be on par with Han Jingru. In short, it was an admittance of her mistake. However, due to her stubborn personality, it was impossible for her to realize that.

“What’s wrong, Grandma?” asked Han Yu when he heard her sigh.

“Nothing. I just hope that the assassin organization can really kill Han Jingru,” replied Nangong Shuxian.

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Ad





Han Yu did not dare to utter a single word. At his age, he still felt afraid at the mention of an assassin organization. He even wanted to dissuade Nangong Shuxian from working with them, so that they would not bring trouble to themselves.

However, Han Yu did not do that. He knew that the assassin organization would play a critical role in killing Han Jingru.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru returned home with Shi Yan after having dinner at the Yang residence.

He did not discuss anything solemn with Yang Bin during the meal and instead had a casual chat about everyday matters. However, Yang Bin kept trying to appeal to him and hint at his wish to continue collaborating with Dynasty.

“Jingru, I didn’t expect you to accomplish so much within such a short period of time. We’ve barely left the Han family for a month, right?” exclaimed Shi Yan in awe. Too many things had happened within the past month—Han Jingru’s status took a drastic reversal, while the entire Yan City turned upside down because of him. Never in a million years would she have expected all that to happen.

She could not help but be filled with awe when she compared Han Jingru’s treatment in the Han family and his current status.

“It’s only been a month.” Han Jingru sighed, lamenting at how slow time passed. He was only fourteen years old then. How long more before he could grow up and marry Su Yimo again?

“This proves that you’re very impressive. Within one month, everyone in Yan City knows about you,” said Shi Yan with a smile. In the past, those who knew Han Jingru treated him as a useless piece of trash. However, Han Jingru had become a prominent figure who was no longer deemed useless.

“Status and reputation mean nothing to me. I don’t care about that,” revealed Han Jingru.

He looked like he was devoid of any emotions and desires. This prompted Shi Yan to ask curiously, “What do you care about, then?”

Despite traveling back in time, the things that mattered to Han Jingru had not changed. The only person important to him was Su Yimo. However, now was not the appropriate timing to mention her to Shi Yan. Otherwise, he would be at a loss for how to explain it.

“Nothing. Let’s go home,” said Han Jingru.

When they reached home, they were astonished by what they saw at the entrance.

Dozens of bouquets were piled up in front of the door, blocking their path completely. They could barely even find a spot to step on.

There was a card in each of the bouquets. When Shi Yan randomly picked one up and read the confessions of love towards Han Jingru, she could not help but burst out laughing.

“Looks like your fanatic fans have found out that you live here. Their capabilities are not to be underestimated,

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huh?" exclaimed Shi Yan.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Although Shi Yan was still laughing happily, Han Jingru was in no mood to do so. Scanning the bouquets at the doorstep, he felt a headache coming. After all, he had just moved there recently. Now that so many people knew where he stayed, he might need to move again.

“Stop laughing at me, Mom. We can’t just leave all these flowers at the doorstep, right?” asked Han Jingru exasperatedly.

“Of course not!” replied Shi Yan with a smile. “Since they’re for my son, I have to move them into the house and admire them.”

“What? You’re going to bring all of these flowers in?” asked Han Jingru in surprise. In his opinion, the flowers’ rightful place was in the dustbin. If they brought all the flowers into the house, it’ll leave an overwhelmingly strong scent.

However, Shi Yan ignored him and started moving all the flowers into the house.

Luckily, the villa was large enough. Otherwise, there would not be sufficient space to accommodate all those flowers.

Han Jingru slumped on the couch, not wanting to help at all. Since Shi Yan wanted to do it, he would just leave her to her own devices.

Not only was he becoming more famous in Yan City, but he was also the most likely candidate to be the champion of the Martial Arts Summit. All these implied that a lot more trouble might be flocking to him soon.

Those fanatic female fans were one of the problems. Han Jingru was afraid that there would be a lot of businessmen vying to visit him too. Han Jingru, who was used to pushing such responsibility to others, was unwilling to face these problems.

Hence, he called Qin Fu.

“Are there a lot of companies seeking to collaborate with us?” he asked.

Qin Fu was still sitting at the desk in the office. His dark circles hung under his eyes, a stark indication of his lack of sleep. There were simply too many people wishing to collaborate with Dynasty. As Qin Fu had to strictly review the company’s abilities and their proposed collaboration, he barely had any time to rest.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Han. We no longer lack business collaborations. There’s a pile of proposals on my desk waiting for my perusal.” There was an extremely large pile of documents on his desk that required his personal perusal. It was a huge workload for him.

Han Jingru glanced at the time. Work had already ended, but Qin Fu sounded like he was still working overtime in the office.

“Are you still in the office?” asked Han Jingru.

“I have some documents left to read, so I need to hurry up,” replied Qin Fu.

Although Han Jingru did not know the company’s specific circumstances, he could already imagine how massive Qin Fu’s workload was.

“We’re not a minor business now. If there are problems you can’t solve during your working hours, you don’t have to waste more time on them after work ends,” said Han Jingru.

Qin Fu understood what he meant. He was saying that a massive conglomerate like Dynasty should act like one. After all, they were not the ones eager to secure collaborations.

However, in Qin Fu’s point of view, he wanted Dynasty to expand as quickly as possible and did not want to disappoint Han Jingru. This was the reason why he wanted to resolve these matters quickly.

“Don’t worry, Mr. Han. I can cope with it,” assured Qin Fu.

“It’s not a matter of whether you can cope with it. Instead, it’s about what Dynasty’s position is. Go home after work ends. From tomorrow onwards, I no longer want to hear that you’re working overtime again. Also, settle a problem for me. Release a statement saying that whoever visits me personally will not stand a chance at collaborating with Dynasty,” instructed Han Jingru.

Qin Fu smiled slightly. He was used to how Han Jingru normally handled things. Such an arrangement was probably meant to stop those people from disturbing him. Instead, they should approach Dynasty with their requests instead.

“I know what to do, Mr. Han,” replied Qin Fu.

“Oh, right... Never mind. It’s nothing. Go home early and rest.” With that, Han Jingru ended the call.

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Ad



He initially wanted Qin Fu to find a new house for him, preferably somewhere mysterious and secluded, so that those crazy female fans would not find him. However, he thought about it again and changed his mind. Those fans were not ordinary people. If they had the means to spectate the Martial Arts Summit, they probably came from wealthy backgrounds. Even if he moved, those women would probably find out soon. Hence, he could not be bothered to waste more effort on it.

Qin Fu scanned the documents piled on his desk. Although he really wanted to settle all these as quickly as possible, his boss had already instructed him to go home. Hence, he had no choice but to follow his instructions.

Furthermore, Han Jingru was right. This was about making Dynasty's position clear.

Unlike in the past, Dynasty was no longer an insignificant company that had to beg for collaborations with others. Similarly, Qin Fu was also no longer a manager who would constantly get rejected. Now that the roles had been reversed, it was completely unnecessary for him to get back to the other companies so quickly.

Even if they had to be left hanging, none of them would dare to utter a single complaint.

Meanwhile, things were getting lively in Ocean Nightclub, a famous nightclub in Yan City. Music boomed while people packed the venue. Regardless of whether it was a holiday or a workday, the Ocean Nightclub would never be empty.

It was also famous for hosting many beautiful ladies,



which was what attracted many thirsty men there, each coming from extraordinary families. An example was Wang Linqi, who liked to frequent the place.

However, he seemed quite unhappy that day. He drank alone without a single woman accompanying him, which was extremely rare for him.

People who visited nightclubs just to drink were the minority. Most of them were there for the women.

“Wang, did you do something that hurt your conscience? Why do you look so depressed? Did you get someone pregnant?” teased a young man as he walked toward Wang. He was Yang Fei, Wang Linqi’s good friend who proclaimed himself to be the Prince of the Nightclub. Although he gave himself that title, he was really quite formidable in the nightclub. Just by making a single call, he could easily summon up to a hundred women over.

“Shut your trap. Women in a place like this are not worthy to have my child,” scoffed Wang Linqi in disdain.

Yang Fei sat beside him and draped an arm over his shoulder. “Since it’s not about getting someone pregnant, what is it that made you so upset that you aren’t even in the mood to flirt with girls?”

Wang Linqi drank a mouthful of alcohol gloomily. His horrible mood had something to do with Han Jingru. He found it extremely hard to accept the fact that he had to apologize to Han Jingru. However, if he refused, he would not receive any money from his family anymore.

When Wang Linqi had acted all high and mighty in front of Han Jingru back then, he didn’t think that he was a

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formidable opponent. Never in a million years would he expect Han Jingru's status to rise so rapidly.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Whenever he thought of how Han Jingru became the most widely-discussed individual in Yan City, he felt a headache coming up. Sometimes, he wondered how Han Jingru managed to achieve all that.

“You can’t help with it, so you should stop asking,” said Wang Linqi as he sighed.

Yang Fei felt unhappy when he heard it. After all, he was a prideful person. It was impossible for him to accept that he could not offer any help even before knowing what was going on.

“Wang, I don’t like what you just said. Although my family is not as powerful as the Wang family, we have access to certain resources that your family doesn’t. There might be some things that you can’t do, but I can,” protested Yang Fei.

Wang Linqi smiled indifferently. *He’s only making such outrageous comments because he’s completely clueless.*

“Really? Since you’re so impressive, I’ll tell you. It has something to do with Han Jingru. Can you help with that?” asked Wang Linqi.

*Han Jingru!*

Yang Fei was stunned for a moment. His family had recently warned him that even if he wanted to have fun, he must never mess around with or offend Han Jingru. If he did, they would not shield him.

Furthermore, he knew how prominent Han Jingru was in Yan City. No matter how bold he was, he would never dare to provoke Han Jingru so easily.

Never in a million years did he expect Wang Linqi's problem to be related to Han Jingru.

"Wang, is there a grudge between Han Jingru and you?" asked Yang Fei. He had already decided that if both of them had a grudge, he had no choice but to stay away from Wang Linqi and prevent himself from being dragged down by their conflict.

"There was a conflict between us, so my family's requesting me to apologize to him," explained Wang Linqi.

An awkward expression crossed Yang Fei's face. If he had known about this earlier, he would not have approached Wang Linqi today.

However, due to his prideful nature, he did not leave immediately. As a person who valued his ego, he did not want Wang Linqi to see him as a coward.

"What happened? Is it serious?" asked Yang Fei.

"Why are you so scared? It's got nothing to do with you. Are you scared that I'll drag you down with me?" asked Wang Linqi exasperatedly when he noticed Yang Fei's being cautious.

"I need to clarify the details. You know Han Jingru's status now right? There are so many companies and martial arts academies vying for him. Offending him is no minor offense! To be honest, my family has already warned me that I must not offend Han Jingru no matter what," admitted Yang Fei.

Wang Linqi could only laugh bitterly when he heard that.

He knew that Yang Fei's circumstances were not only unique to him. There must be many families who had given similar warnings to their juniors—an indication of how fearful they were of Han Jingru. On the other hand, he had provoked such a terrifyingly powerful person.

If Wang Linqi had a second chance, he would never offend Han Jingru. Unfortunately, it was impossible to turn back time.

"It's not anything major, but just some minor conflict. Perhaps, he's already forgotten about it," said Wang Linqi.

*A minor conflict?*

*If it's really a minor conflict, would he be so worried?*

Yang Fei did not really believe Wang Linqi's words. After deliberating about it, he decided that the most appropriate thing to do was to stay away from him.

"Right, I suddenly remembered something and will need to go home quickly. Have fun, okay? It's my treat tonight." Without even waiting for Wang Linqi's response, Yang Fei left.

Wang Linqi knew that he was trying to stay away from him, afraid that he would get implicated.

Although he felt disdain towards Yang Fei, he could still understand his concern. After all, Han Jingru was powerful enough to fill one with terror.

"Yang Fei."

## Chapter 1228

Ad



He had just walked to the entrance when someone called out to him.

“What are you doing? Why are you leaving so quickly?” asked the person confusedly as he walked towards Yang Fei. The night had just started, yet there was not a single woman to be seen accompanying him. As this was not like him at all, the person found it odd.

He was actually Yang Fei’s close friend. After scanning around sneakily, Yang Fei warned, “I’m reminding you because I’m your friend. Don’t get too close with Wang Linqi if you don’t want to get into trouble.”

“What do you mean? Don’t you have a good relationship with Wang Linqi? You guys are even pals,” asked the person, puzzled.

“Pals? I wish for nothing more than to be strangers with him. He offended Han Jingru!” exclaimed Wang Linqi.

The person widened his eyes in shock and gasped.

“No way! Are you kidding me?” he asked, knowing very well how powerful Han Jingru was now. Anyone who offended him would not end up well.

“Do I look like I’m kidding? I’m only telling this to you, not anyone else,” hissed Yang Fei.

“Luckily, you reminded me. Otherwise, I might be unknowingly dragged down by Wang Linqi. Looks like I have to leave as well. Let’s go together.”

Both of them left the nightclub.

Although these were just some trivial details, they could clearly show how formidable Han Jingru was in Yan City.

With the current circumstances, no one was willing or bold enough to offend him. Instead, they would rather seek collaborations with him. Even if they got rejected, the last thing they wanted was to become enemies with him.

Wang Linqi drank gloomily till one in the morning before leaving the nightclub alone. He did not bring any girls home because he was in no mood to think about that at all.

Just when he was about to ask someone to drive him home, a man wearing a cap appeared beside him. He asked, "Sir, would you need a ride home?"

Wang Linqi, who was completely drunk, glanced at the man before tossing his car keys over. "Duh! Do you think that I can drive myself?"

With that, he stumbled into the passenger's seat in front.

However, the car drove towards the suburbs instead of the Wang residence. Wang Linqi, who had fallen asleep, did not realize that at all.

The car screeched to a stop in an abandoned warehouse. Afterward, the driver got out and whipped out his phone.

The driver, who was the assassin who had met Nangong Shuxian earlier, called her.

As she had been woken up from the call in the middle of



## Chapter 1228

the night, she was in a foul mood. However, when she saw the name displayed on the screen, she forcefully suppressed her fury.

“What’s the matter? Why are you calling me so late at night?” asked Nangong Shuxian.

“Tomorrow, spread news that Han Jingru has met Wang Linqi and got into an aggressive argument. Ensure no one finds out that the news originated from you.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Nangong Shuxian had no problems in regards to handling the situation. She was aware of the other party's agenda but she found it unrealistic to use the Wang family in their battle against Han Jingru.

The Wang family was one of the Three Principal Families in Yan City, but Han Jingru had close ties with the other two of the Three Principal Families. If something were to happen, the Mo family and the Yang family would be siding with him for sure. Therefore, it was impossible for the Wang family to go up against Han Jingru on their own.

"I see that you're unaware of the current situation in Yan City, seeing that you've even suggested using the Wang family to go against Han Jingru," Nangong Shuxian replied. She wished for Han Jingru's death too, that being the reason for her sudden urge to be more careful with her plans.

"You just have to do what I want you to do. As for other matters, you don't have to worry about them. I know what I'm doing," the person on the other end of the line responded adamantly.

Hearing that, Nangong Shuxian decided to drop the matter as she agreed, "Alright then. I'll spread the news now and I'll make sure that not a single trace of evidence is left."

The person soon hung up the call and eyed Wang Linqi, who was currently asleep. He knew that the Wang family was incapable of fighting against Han Jingru but Wang Linqi was still the head of the Wang family. If something were to happen to him, the Wang family would never let Han Jingru off the hook for sure.

Once chaos ensued in Yan City, that would be his chance to make his comeback.

On the other hand, Han Jingru had no idea of this plot and was currently enjoying his sleep. He had a sweet dream of him staying in Yun City and growing up as childhood sweethearts with Su Yimo. After growing up, he had the chance of marrying Su Yimo once more, this time without the mocks and humiliation of the public in Yun City. He managed to give Su Yimo the happiness that she deserved, which made his lips curl into a sweet smile in his sleep.

Han Jingru's greatest regret in his previous life was his failure to give Su Yimo a memorable wedding with sweet memories. Their wedding back then had been full of mocks and snickers, a scene that stuck in Han Jingru's mind like a life-long prick. The humiliation had etched so deeply in his mind that he even dreamed of fixing this regret of his.

The next day, Shi Yan prepared breakfast, only to find that her son was still fast asleep. This was odd to Shi Yan and she could not help but ponder curiously.

Throughout the time that she had lived with Han Jingru, she never once saw her son sleep for this long.

She then went up to his room and peeped through the door slit. Indeed, Han Jingru was still fast asleep.

A naughty thought struck Shi Yan's mind as she soon decided that she would prank her son.

Nevertheless, the moment she sneaked into his room, Han Jingru suddenly spoke up, "What are you doing,

Mom?"

Poor Shi Yan immediately froze in her place. *Isn't that brat sleeping? Why is he suddenly awake now?*

Han Jingru was, after all, an Alpha Stage fighter. It would be extremely stupid of him if he were unable to detect the presence of another person entering his room.

"What else would I be doing? Of course, I'm here to wake you up for breakfast," Shi Yan replied awkwardly.

Hearing that, Han Jingru got up and announced, "Well, you don't have to be so sneaky if you're waking me up for breakfast."

Shi Yan's expression morphed as she was quick to retort in annoyance, "What do you mean by sneaky? Since when was I being sneaky? I'm your Mom. Do I even need to sneak into your room?"

All of a sudden, Han Jingru recalled an important fact - to never reason with a woman. Su Yimo had once taught him that in the most unforgettable way possible.

"Sorry, I shouldn't have said that," Han Jingru relented with a sigh.

Shi Yan was pleased to hear her son's words as she replied, "It's good to know that you've realized your mistakes. Alright, get up and have your breakfast now. The dishes are getting cold."

As Han Jingru began to get dressed, his mind could not help but wander off to the dream that he had the night before. His desperation to return to Yun City deepened

# Chapter 1229

Ad



further as he recalled the dream. Although he could not marry Su Yimo now, being able to grow up by Su Yimo's side was still a precious experience to him.

"Are you busy today?" Shi Yan asked at the dinner table.

Being the careful person that he was, Han Jingru knew that Shi Yan must have had something in mind for her to have asked such a question.

"Oh, I'm free today. Is there anything that you'd like me to do?" Han Jingru asked in return.

"If you're free, can you accompany me to a classmate gathering?" Shi Yan requested.

"Classmate gathering?" Han Jingru was surprised by her odd request. *What does an adult's classmate gathering have to do with a kid like me?*

"You don't want to go with me?" Shi Yan sighed in disappointment.

"Of course not. How can I say no to an occasion that'll make my mother proud?" Han Jingru replied smilingly. With that smart brain of his, Han Jingru quickly understood why his mother had wanted to bring him with her.

Humans were vain beings after all. Shi Yan was just a regular woman; she was certainly no exception when it came to the desire of showing her son off.

Han Jingru was now a famous figure in Yan City. Bringing him to her gathering would definitely make her stand out amongst the crowd.

“Making me proud, you say? Nah, my classmates are mostly returning from abroad. They have just returned recently and have no idea of the occurrences in Yan City. I bet that they wouldn’t even know your name to begin with.” Shi Yan grabbed the opportunity to diss her son.

Han Jingru did not argue with her. *Well, most of them have returned from abroad. That must mean that there are still quite a few of them from Yan City, right?*

In spite of that, he had no intention to expose Shi Yan as he kindly allowed her to keep her pride.

“Where’s the venue? Do you need a car? I can ask Qin Fu to arrange for one,” Han Jingru offered.

“Of course we need a car. It’s at Dragonlake Resort. We won’t be able to reach there even if we were to walk the entire day,” Shi Yan murmured.

Dragonlake Resort was a renowned holiday resort in Yan City. It was located in the southern suburbs of Yan City, and those who could afford to spend their money there were all the rich and powerful. For a classmate gathering to be hosted there, it seemed like Shi Yan’s classmates also consisted of the rich and powerful. *It’s no surprise that she wants to bring me with her.*

With that, Han Jingru made a call to Qin Fu as he instructed him to make the necessary arrangements for a car.

Being his personal assistant, Qin Fu had to be the one to drive Han Jingru personally for the sake of his boss’ safety. Hence, he dumped all the matters that he had on his plate and arrived at Han Jingru’s villa after his call.

Going out for an event was always a troublesome task for women. They had to personally pick their outfits before they spent a long while applying their make-up.

As they waited for Shi Yan to get ready, both Han Jingru and Qin Fu started to discuss Dynasty in the living room.

Dynasty's business had shown rapid growth in its revenue; hence, Han Jingru was not worried at all at this moment. Qin Fu was possibly busy now but his job scope currently consisted of choosing the right parties to work with. Compared to their old days of paying visits to other companies and begging for collaborations, his current job scope was much easier than it was before. Besides, he didn't have to worry about offending the other parties, especially with Dynasty's current status.

"Boss, from my current observation, Dynasty will become one of the biggest companies in Yan City within three months' time," Qin Fu reported to Han Jingru.

The three-month deadline was a deal made between Han Jingru and the Yang family. Now that many companies were seeking to collaborate with Dynasty, they did not have to rely on the Yang family's help alone as they could easily achieve their target within three months.

"I will allow you to take charge of Dynasty in the time to come, so you can make your own rightful decisions in regards to Dynasty," Han Jingru put forth.

This was not the first time that Han Jingru had said that. Qin Fu found it rather odd when he had heard this previously. The manner in which Han Jingru instructed him made it seem like he was going to leave at any given point in time.



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“Boss, do you have plans to leave Yan City?” Qin Fu could not help but ask.

“Yes. I will be departing for Yun City after the Martial Arts Summit.”



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In the eyes of Qin Fu, Yun City was a place that had nothing to do with Han Jingru, which was why he was bewildered by his boss' decision. However, as a mere subordinate, he had no right to pry into Han Jingru's matters. Seeing as such, he could only suppress his curiosity as he held back his urge to ask such questions.

"Have you been to a classmate gathering before?" Han Jingru abruptly asked.

The mere mention of a classmate gathering had Qin Fu smiling bitterly. He knew that most people would have attended such a gathering at least once in their lifetime. However, he believed that these so-called classmate gatherings were usually just an event for all sorts of comparisons; be it about work, cars, or even of the looks and curvaceous figures of their wives.

The successful guys who used to rank the last in exams would even sneer at the ones who ended up mediocre in their lives, especially when their mediocre classmates used to be the ones who would top the exams.

In the eyes of Qin Fu, such classmate gatherings were never simple gatherings for reminiscing the old times. In fact, those who organized such gatherings were usually the ones who did well in their lives, the ones who wanted a ground to show off their success.

"Boss, classmate gatherings are supposed to be a gathering of old friends and catching up with one another. Unfortunately, such gatherings are often just events for showing off one's worth. I used to be a lowly jerk in comparison with my classmates. When I attend gatherings, I am always on the receiving end of all sorts of mocks and sneers. They never once thought of me as their friend while they attacked me," Qin Fu replied.

Han Jingru curled his lips upwards in sheer

school. Ever since she came to learn of my identity, she deliberately approached me,” Qin Fu announced.

Han Jingru raised his brows suggestively at that. “Oh? Then how are you two faring now? Is there any love progress?”

Unfortunately, Qin Fu shook his head with a sigh. “I used to wonder if she would fall in love with me if I were to end up successful. Would she love me if she came to learn of my achievements? I even imagined that she would marry me after I achieved all of that. How sweet of a dream it was!”

Qin Fu paused before adding, “However, when I truly became successful, I suddenly realized that my crush for her had vanished completely. I came to a sudden realization that the sparks that I used to have for her were gone for good when she came to find me.”

“Why?” Han Jingru asked in confusion. The goddess and dream girl of a person’s schooling days should be the most unforgettable crush that anyone could experience. Nevertheless, Qin Fu had simply forgone the opportunity in such a manner.

“Well, perhaps when we’ve gained wealth, women will end up being the cheapest things that a man could own. Furthermore, I’m aware that she didn’t come for me alone; she came for my status and money,” Qin Fu explained.

His words made Han Jingru slap his shoulder hard. That was indeed a dangerous thought. Qin Fu could hold on to his opinion that his dream girl came for his money, but he shouldn’t think of women as the cheapest thing that a man could own. Such a thought would make him single for the rest of his life.

“Not all women are like her, okay? From another perspective, you should consider this - why should she get together with you when you are unable to provide for her? Don't tell me that you expect her to live on the streets with you? Could you really call that true love?” Han Jingru chided.

“This...” Qin Fu smiled bitterly. Indeed, it was impossible to find anyone who would willingly live on the streets with him. No woman would ever bet her future on a loser like him.

“No matter what, you shouldn't be too wise in life. What's the fun of living when you've already predicted everything in life?” Han Jingru added.

Qin Fu could not help but eye his boss incredulously. He suddenly realized how his boss' words didn't tally with his age. Han Jingru was all but a minor now; how could it be possible for him to have such a mature mindset? In fact, Qin Fu felt as though he was conversing with an elder.

*This is such a weird feeling!*

Han Jingru's mature mindset was truly far beyond his age, especially after everything he had been through.

“Boss, why do I get the feeling that you've been through a lot? Nevertheless, that's impossible for a person of your age,” Qin Fu mused aloud.

Han Jingru could possibly look young now, but his life experience was definitely the most unique one. Hence, he had a different point of view in regards to the occurrences in life.

Unfortunately, he could not inform Qin Fu of such.

"I'll be able to observe more as a bystander."

The moment he finished his words, Shi Yan finally emerged from her room in her dress.

Han Jingru checked the time on his watch; he had waited for an hour now. *Women are such weird creatures. They need an hour to change, and that's with limited clothing choices.* Han Jingru dared not imagine how long she would take if his mother were to dress up at the Han family's mansion instead.

"How do I look?" Shi Yan asked her son anxiously.

In the eyes of Han Jingru, his mother had always been the most beautiful lady he had ever laid eyes upon. Shi Yan had maintained her beauty well and her age had granted her an inexplicable sense of allure that was unique to her. She was the perfect example of a lady with a mature sense of beauty.

"Believe it or not, you'll look good even in rags," Han Jingru praised with a smile.

"Tsk, what a sweet mouth you have. If you were this much of a sweet talker with Nangong Shuxian, she wouldn't have hated you to your guts," Shi Yan replied snarkily.

Han Jingru wasn't lacking in his ability to sweet talk with Nangong Shuxian. He could mutter cheesier words than Han Yu if he had intended to, but he just didn't want to do as such. Furthermore, Nangong Shuxian didn't hate him for his frankness, so his sweet talk would have no effect on Nangong Shuxian anyway.

"Well, my inability to sweet talk with her is not the reason that she hates me," Han Jingru retorted.

Shi Yan immediately halted on the topic. She was fully aware that this was a topic that Han Jingru had always refused to talk about. Hence, she didn't want his good mood to be spoiled by the mere mention of Nangong Shuxian.



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Qin Fu personally drove them to Dragonlake Resort that day.

Along the way, Qin Fu asked Han Jingru for the necessary instructions, "Boss, do we need to inform Dragonlake Resort of our arrival? I know someone there who can arrange for the best banquet hall for you."

Dragonlake Resort was a high-end site of enjoyment, a place where the services provided varied greatly with the amounts that their guests could pay. For a regular classmate gathering like this, Qin Fu was pretty certain that they wouldn't receive any decent services at the resort. With Han Jingru's current status, he deserved the best service wherever he went.

"There is no need for that. I am merely an escort today," Han Jingru responded.

Shi Yan scowled at her son's reply. "What do you mean by an escort? That sounds rather inappropriate!"

Han Jingru pouted his lips helplessly. *You're the one who dragged me out for a show-off; isn't that what an escort does?*

"Perhaps I should arrange for a hall?" Han Jingru suggested.

"Oh, there's no need for that. The gathering is being hosted by our class monitor today. He's rather successful after years of working abroad, so I have to save his face," Shi Yan explained.

Han Jingru momentarily stroked his chin while sizing up his mother.

Shi Yan felt uneasy the moment she caught sight of her son's judging gaze. "Why are you staring at me like that?"

“Mom, does Dad know about this class monitor of yours?” Han Jingru asked.

Shi Yan was visibly nervous at the mere mention of Han Ying. “Of course he doesn’t! It has been a long time since we last had a gathering. I had no opportunities to bring your father to one.”

Han Jingru nodded his head in understanding. “So, I suppose that this class monitor of yours is someone special to you? Don’t tell me that you used to have a crush on him?” Han Jingru teased his mother.

“What nonsense are you talking about? How dare you tease me, huh? Do you want a taste of my fists?” Shi Yan threatened Han Jingru fiercely.

Nevertheless, Han Jingru was not in the least bit afraid of her threat as he smiled mischievously. “Don’t worry, Mom. I’ll keep it a secret from Dad.”

Han Jingru treated her reaction as a funny joke. He knew that Shi Yan would never cheat on Han Ying for a mere class monitor that she had not seen for years. Furthermore, it was all but a one-sided crush. Even if they were together before, it was just a sweet memory from the past. Shi Yan’s reaction was as normal as any other woman with the same experience.

“Didn’t I tell you to shut up?” Shi Yan’s eyes were wide with anger, as though she wanted to murder her son on the spot.

Han Jingru immediately zipped his mouth as he stopped talking.

On the other hand, Shi Yan’s nervousness had grown greater after Han Jingru mentioned her old crush.



Shi Yan shot Qin Fu a glare upon hearing his words. As a woman herself, she greatly detested the act of making women the playthings of men. However, this was part of the norm in the society, and she alone couldn't do anything to change it despite her dislike of it.

"You men are all jerks. Jingru, if you're to end up like any of these jerks, I'll cut ties with you," Shi Yan warned her son threateningly.

Han Jingru could only nod nonchalantly. Even if he had such needs, he would not resort to venereal services. Considering his popularity amongst women, he wouldn't even need to spend money to satiate his needs.

The most important fact remained - Han Jingru's sexual needs would only be triggered by Su Yimo. He did not waver at all when he was faced with the extremely gorgeous Qi Bingying; what more if it were a random woman working in a holiday resort as such?

"I am a loyal man," Han Jingru answered.

"What time should I come to pick you up, Boss?" Shi Yan's glare made Qin Fu desperate to get away from them. *It seems like Boss' mother is upset at me.*

"Wait for my call," Han Jingru replied.

"Okay." With that, Qin Fu hopped into the car and drove off hastily.

Shi Yan approached Han Jingru and reminded him, "This subordinate of yours is not a good man. Stay away from him if possible."

Han Jingru had no other option but to smile helplessly. "Mom, he's just speaking of the truth."

“Is the person a girl?” Shi Yan pestered.

Han Jingru knew that the moment he confirmed his mother’s suspicion, Shi Yan would overthink it for sure. Nevertheless, he also knew that she would come to learn of it sooner or later, nagging him if she found out that he had lied to her. Seeing as such, he had no choice but to nod in confirmation.



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To Han Jingru's surprise, Shi Yan did not overthink at all. In fact, her smile widened further when she heard that.

"Mom, did you truly think that I liked men?" Han Jingru queried with a disgusted expression. The only plausible explanation to Shi Yan's reaction was that she had possibly misunderstood that her son was gay.

"Of course not. I will never think that way. Come on, I'm bringing you over to meet my classmates," Shi Yan chirped while taking his arm in hers.

Han Jingru could not help but sigh helplessly. He merely rejected some women, and now, his mother was thinking that he was gay instead. He didn't expect such a misunderstanding to arise.

They soon arrived at Scenic Hall; it was the cheapest banquet hall that was available in Dragonlake Resort. This was the hall of choice for people who could not afford lavish expenditures. Such people would merely want to go beyond their means to impress others, keeping up with their so-called rich appearance by hosting a banquet in Dragonlake Resort.

From afar, Han Jingru spotted a beer-bellied man with signs of balding standing by the hall's entrance. Beside him stood a woman in a figure-fitting dress; she was wearing excessive makeup and she was evidently a mistress to this man.

"Mom, don't tell me that the fat man is your class monitor crush?" Han Jingru couldn't help but ask. It was usually the custom for the host to welcome the guests by the entrance, not the other way round. Besides, Shi Yan did mention that this gathering was being hosted by her ex-class monitor.

Shi Yan had not seen her class monitor in a long time; in

spite of that, her eyes almost popped out of her sockets at the drastic change in his appearance.

*Since when has the tall and handsome class monitor turned into a balding fatty?*

“Err... I don’t think so,” Shi Yan answered repulsively.

Han Jingru could not help but laugh out loud. *Mom, you just refused to admit that the dream guy of yours is long gone.*

*Well, that’s good anyway. At least the last bit of that crush in you is completely destroyed now.*

When they neared the fat man, Shi Yan started scrutinizing him from head to toe. His overall appearance could have changed drastically, but she could still see hints of his younger self from his facial features. This man was her class monitor indeed.

“Shi Yan?”

“Liu Wei?”

Liu Wei’s lustful gaze roamed upon Shi Yan’s figure greedily the moment he laid eyes on her. He never expected that Shi Yan would turn out to be so alluring after so many years of not seeing her. She looked more tempting than the young girls that he had seen around him.

Men could never resist young and beautiful girls. In spite of that, a woman like Shi Yan who was mature with an alluring sense of beauty was absolutely lethal to men.

As a man himself, Han Jingru soon noticed Liu Wei’s lustful gaze on his mother and developed a terrible impression of him.

top-notch in Yan City. I bet that you've spent a lot on this gathering," Shi Yan assented politely.

This made Liu Wei increasingly smug as he soon waved his hands in denial. "Oh, it's nothing. Anything that can be solved with money is not a problem for me. I did achieve a lot throughout my time overseas."

After their arrival, a few other classmates arrived as well. Shi Yan had mentioned that most of the guests were returnees from overseas. All of them were nicely dressed up, as though they were well-mannered people of noble upbringing, but their topic of conversation was repulsive to hear nevertheless. All of them were discreetly showing off their successful careers as they indirectly compared their accumulated wealth throughout the years. They would have put their account books and assets on display if they could.

Han Jingru found it hard for him to mingle into their circle so he found himself a quiet spot and sat there wordlessly.

"Shi Yan, I've heard from others that a crisis has befallen your family's business. I hope that it's not too serious for you."

"Yeah, I've heard that too. It's a shame that I was overseas; I couldn't help much when the crisis happened. Now that we're all back here, feel free to share your burdens with us. We can help you in solving your problem, as long as you tell us what you need."

"We are all old classmates, so don't be shy with us."

A group of men started to converse with Shi Yan. Amongst the women, Shi Yan was undoubtedly the most attractive woman in the group. Liu Wei was not the only one who lusted after her. Rather, other men also had the

same coveted thoughts toward Shi Yan as they wanted to get closer to her. They even wished to share some physical affection with her.

Shi Yan did not foresee this. While the men were trying to flirt with her, she too felt the jealous gazes of the ladies in the hall.

“Thanks for your concern. My family’s problem has been resolved,” Shi Yan replied.

“You’re still not being truthful with us. All of us have heard about the financial difficulties and the drop in revenue of your family’s business. How can that be resolved so easily? You don’t have to hide it from us for the sake of your name and reputation. We’re really here to help you.”

“That’s right. We were classmates after all; how can we stand aside and not provide you the help you need? Just say it and we’ll help. Your classmates are now very successful and we can afford to save you from the crisis that you’re facing.”

The ones who said so were those who just returned from overseas, while the locals remained silent throughout the entire conversation. Although the locals were not exactly clear of the happenings within the Han family, most of them had already caught wind about the recent Martial Arts Summit. There was also news of the Han family’s comeback in the business realm; seeing as such, they knew that nothing major had happened within the Han family for Shi Yan to have asked for help. These men around Shi Yan were not sincere with their help either as they merely wanted to get something in return from Shi Yan.

“Really, we’re perfectly fine. Thanks for the concern. Since it’s a classmate gathering, let’s talk about our fun

times during our schooling days. As for other matters, I can solve them myself," Shi Yan replied.

"You can solve them yourself? Look around you; all of these men are eyeing you like a pack of hungry wolves. Why not let them help you? It'll be easier that way," an abrupt retort suddenly sounded from the back of the crowd.



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However, that was not the case anymore. Lin Fang seemed to have matured quite a lot, meaning that she would possibly be able to have a fair fight this time around.

More importantly, Lin Fang's outfit sent a clear message to all, letting the men know that she was more open-minded and easier to get along with as compared to Shi Yan.

"Oh! It's Lin Fang! Forgive me for forgetting our Class Queen's name."

"Long time no see, Lin Fang. You are really beautiful now; you are definitely fitting of the title."

"Look at your body! You've done a great job in maintaining it. I doubt that anyone here could actually be able to compare."

The men swarmed toward her like a pack of starved hyenas scouring for food.

Meanwhile, Shi Yan smiled wryly. In all honesty, she was unbothered about the poll as it was merely a worthless title to her. Lin Fang was the only one who took it really seriously.

With all the men singing praises at her, Lin Fang approached Shi Yan coquettishly, making the men's hearts race in the process.

"Shi Yan, it's been so long. We have not seen each other since graduation," Lin Fang uttered casually.

"Indeed. You and the majority of the others all went overseas, and it seems like everyone is doing really well."

Lin Fang smiled as she was not just doing really well.



She had become a very popular socialite amongst the wealthy people overseas and she had made quite a lot of connections.

“Of course I’d be doing well, I’m amazing! I even know all of the top twenty wealthiest people in the world!” Lin Fang boasted.

The others began to have discussions upon hearing her words. *The top twenty? All of them? She’s bluffing, isn’t she?*

Meanwhile, Lin Fang began to bask in their astonishment and envy. This was the reason that she had shown up in the first place, but more importantly, she wanted to prove that she was better than Shi Yan.

Lin Fang was never able to put the Class Queen incident behind her and she figured that this was a good opportunity to avenge herself.

“I heard that your family is in a pickle right now. Do you need a hand?” Lin Fang asked Shi Yan.

Shi Yan, however, was not actually bothered by the Han family’s crises. With how Han Jingru was progressing, he could already be considered one of Yan City’s most prominent residents. He would not be able to compare to the people that Lin Fang knew, but Shi Yan believed that Han Jingru would reach a higher position than those people once he had a few extra years under his belt.

“It’s just a small matter. I doubt that your help is needed,” she answered.

“A small matter?” Lin Fang smirked. “I heard that the Han family is going into bankruptcy, can you even call that a small matter?”

Lin Fang's tone was insulting, to say the least, and Shi Yan could feel the hostility within her words. Nonetheless, she kept her cool to avoid causing more problems.

"Even if it's bankruptcy, it's still just my personal affair. Thank you for your offer though," Shi Yan responded.

Unfortunately, Lin Fang was not about to just let her off the hook as it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "Well, this clearly tells us that we women should think about how to rely on our capabilities instead of dreaming about marrying into rich families. If something goes wrong, you'd have nothing left."

She was clearly implying that Shi Yan had nothing left.

None who were present dared to interject.

Some of the women were afraid because Shi Yan was from the Han family. Meanwhile, other women felt like they did not have the social status to butt in. After all, one of them had some very wealthy connections.

The men there were just the same. Some even thought that this would be a great chance for them to get close to Shi Yan to comfort her if she were to get hurt from the situation.

While that was going on, Han Jingru just listened even though he was quite far away in the corner. He did not know what the pair's relationship was, but Lin Fang's tone was clearly hostile since she had treated Shi Yan like an eyesore.

"Mum, since you've brought me here, it'll be best for me not to disappoint you," he uttered to himself, fishing out his phone to call Nangong Boling.

Before Nangong Boling took his departure from Yan City, he took the liberty to meet up with Han Jingru as he exchanged numbers, hoping that he would be the first man that Han Jingru would contact if Han Jingru ever decided to visit the Nangong family.

On the other side of the globe.

Nangong Boling's phone rang. When he saw Han Jingru's name on the screen, he felt surprised as he had left Yan City not too long ago. *That's quick. Has he decided to visit the family?*

"Nangong Boling, how many men do you have amongst the top twenty wealthiest people?" This was the first thing that he heard upon picking up the phone.

Nangong Boling did not know what Han Jingru was trying to do, but he was honest out of his fear of Han Jingru. "About eighty percent."

Hearing his answer, Han Jingru snickered. If anyone else knew about this, their jaws would fall to the floor. Nonetheless, it was the norm for Nangong Boling, since he was the major manipulator of the global economy. Those so-called millionaires and billionaires were mostly just his puppets.



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“Help me ask them if they know a woman named Lin Fang. If they do, tell them to ask her to be humble. I don’t want to do it myself,” Han Jingru ordered.

Nangong Boling was thoroughly confused. *How could a mere woman make Han Jingru behave so seriously?* Nonetheless, it was a simple request from Han Jingru, so Nangong Boling naturally had to do it.

Besides, that woman was involved with his puppets. It would be bad if Han Jingru held Nangong Boling accountable for not handling this properly.

“Consider it done,” he replied.

After the call ended, Han Jingru continued to remain at the corner, resting his eyes. He had seen too much of these minor feuds among classmates to actually care about them anymore. Han Jingru was in fact, quite annoyed with it at that point.

Back at the ladies side, Lin Fang was still flaunting her superiority in front of Shi Yan. She wanted so badly to squash Shi Yan beneath her foot.

“Shi Yan, don’t you know that this is your chance? I doubt that you accomplished much for the Han family after all these years with your capabilities. You can actually help them right now! Don’t you want to?” Lin Fang pronounced to Shi Yan.

“What do you mean?” Shi Yan was puzzled.

“If you beg me, I’ll lend you a hand. How about that?” Lin Fang smiled.

At that moment, Shi Yan eventually realized that Lin Fang was trying to get her to lower her head.

Nevertheless, the situation of the Han family was the least of Shi Yan's problems since she got kicked out of the family by Nangong Shuxian.

Moreover, even though she was not bothered by the Class Queen situation back then, it did not mean Shi Yan would just claim inferiority in front of Lin Fang for no reason.

"You're overthinking it. I won't beg you for anything," Shi Yan responded icily.

Lin Fang's expression immediately changed. "Are you aware? I can immediately ruin the Han family with just a phone call."

"Do it then. I'm not a member of the family anymore. What happens to them is none of my concern," Shi Yan replied nonchalantly.

Lin Fang was caught off guard by her words. She actually thought that Shi Yan would be on her knees with a threat of that caliber.

*Does she not care at all? Did she get divorced? Is that why?*

With that in mind, Lin Fang smiled in satisfaction. "Shi Yan, don't tell me, did you get divorced? Did the man abandon you?"

Being abandoned was a really embarrassing matter. If it were true, Lin Fang would definitely enjoy sprinkling some salt on Shi Yan's wound.

However, Lin Fang's disappointment was inevitable. In reality, Shi Yan was in fact kicked out of the house by Nangong Shuxian, but her relationship with Han Ying remained unwavering.

“Sorry to disappoint you, I’m not divorced, nor will I ever get divorced.”

“Hmph!” Lin Fang snickered. “If you’re not divorced, why don’t you care about the situation with the Han family? Or are you embarrassed by it? Is that why you’re refusing to admit to it to everyone here?”

“Why would I admit to something that’s just made up? Lin Fang, you know full well that the Class Queen thing was their decision. I had nothing to do with it, and you got it in the end with all of your bribing. It’s been so long now, are you still bothered by it after all these years?” Shi Yan was getting impatient since her tolerance was met with more attacks. At this point, she would not mind just taking Lin Fang head-on.

To Lin Fang, the bribing was a disgrace to her name. It was evidently not a dignified way of doing things.

A lot of their classmates knew about this but no one brought it up.

Shi Yan’s words were like a slap to her face and Lin Fang immediately grew agitated.

“I think that you’re the one who’s making things up here. Class Queen was rightfully mine. When did I ever bribe anyone?” Lin Fang exclaimed.

Shi Yan was definitely a force to be reckoned with if she intended to be. After all, she did follow Nangong Shuxian around for so many years. Some of Nangong Shuxian’s dominance was bound to rub off on Shi Yan.

With that in mind, Shi Yan gave up on saving Lin Fang some face. She pointed at the crowd of classmates. “You are all aware of what I’m referring to, aren’t you? It is a known fact! Do you want me to name each and every

one of you?"

Shi Yan's words made Lin Fang increasingly agitated as she soon raised her hand to hit Shi Yan.

In spite of that, Shi Yan was not someone who could be taken lightly. "You're hitting people now? Have you lost your cool now that the dirt had been revealed?" she asked as she grabbed Lin Fang's raised hand.

Seeing that things were getting way out of hand, Liu Wei finally came forward and stood between the two women. "How many years has it been since then? We were all kids who didn't know any better. Aren't we all adults now? Are you two really going to be at each other's throats over something so trivial?"

"I, for one, was never really bothered by it. I am not petty like the person who clearly still can't let it go," Shi Yan muttered nonchalantly.

*Petty!*

The word felt like a secondary attack to Lin Fang and it got her thoroughly infuriated.

"Shi Yan, I'll make you pay for what you said today." Lin Fang gritted her teeth.

"Didn't you say that you could ruin the Han family? I'll be waiting for that." Shi Yan's response was still rather nonchalant.

The strong did not have any weaknesses, nor anything that they could be threatened with.

Shi Yan was currently showing the mindset of the strong. She feared nothing and left Lin Fang at a loss for words.

While that was going on, Han Jingru was laughing. His phone call had already sealed Lin Fang's fate. Those so-called wealthy people she knew were all probably cutting their ties with her as she spoke. *I truly doubt that anyone will be helping her anytime soon!*

Something still felt amiss, however, as it did not feel like he had helped Shi Yan in regaining her dignity. Seeing as such, Han Jingru fished his phone out once more, in an effort to call Qin Fu.

Qin Fu told him that he was acquainted with Dragonlake Resort's owner. Asking for a change of banquet hall would be a piece of cake for him.

"Qin Fu, help me in arranging for a change to that banquet hall. I wanted to lay low but someone just had to get on my nerves," Han Jingru professed casually.

On the other end of the line, Qin Fu was ecstatic. "Understood, Boss. I'll give him a call right now. If he knows that you are there, he might actually get overwhelmed."

Even though Han Jingru had no official power or status, his name was still widely known throughout Yan City. The owner of Dragonlake Resort had connections of his own but no one would ever give up on the chance to meet Han Jingru.

Within ten minutes, a crowd of Dragonlake Resort's staff gathered at Scenic Hall.





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With all of the strangers that arrived, Shi Yan and Lin Fang's argument came to halt.

As the organizer, Liu Wei naturally had to be the one to find out what was going on. It felt odd to him that a bunch of staff had shown up out of the blue.

Amongst all of the staff, a middle-aged man stood out the most. With his fine suit, it was clear he was not just an ordinary staff member.

"You are?" Liu Wei asked carefully. Flaunting about with his classmates and flaunting to strangers were two entirely different situations. He knew better than to step on someone's toes in their own turf, especially when his wealth was all overseas.

More than that, Yan City was a major city. The chances of finding someone richer than him randomly was actually quite high, so he had to remain humble.

"Can I know if Mr. Han is here? I am the owner of Dragonlake Resort, Zeng Xiao," the man introduced himself.

*The owner of Dragonlake Resort!*

Liu Wei was not the only one who gasped as all the others were gob smacked as well.

Being one of the top spots in Yan City, Dragonlake Resort's status was definitely closely tied with its owner. It would have been impossible for an ordinary person to accomplish what he had accomplished so far.

*It is evident that this man has an enormous network of connections to work with. Nevertheless, why is he here? His status in Yan City is definitely higher than anyone present.*

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Zeng. What can I do for you?” Liu Wei’s response was particularly cautious for she feared that she would offend Zeng Xiao.

“I’ve already prepared Longhu Pavilion for all of you; can I know whether Mr. Han has arrived? If he’s here, I can bring you all over to the hall,” Zeng Xiao explained.

*Longhu Pavilion!*

The name sent chills down Liu Wei’s spine. When he was looking for a venue for the gathering, he did some research on Dragonlake Resort. He had discovered that each banquet hall in the resort was for people of specific social statuses.

Scenic Hall that they were currently in was reserved for the common folk like them.

Longhu Pavilion, on the other hand, was the most luxurious hall in the resort, reserved only for the top of the top in the social hierarchy.

This made Liu Wei really curious as to who Zeng Xiao was referring to. *What kind of guy is this Mr. Han to treated so respectably by the owner himself? Is he among us?*

He instinctively spun around to gaze at his former classmates. From what he remembered, they never had anyone whose family name was Han in the class. *Did he make a mistake?*

“Mr. Zeng, are you sure that it’s us? I don’t think that we have anyone here that goes by Mr. Han,” Liu Wei told him.

“I’m here.” All of sudden, Han Jingru came out of the corner, finally saying something.

Shi Yan could not help but smile from the sidelines. From the moment that Zeng Xiao arrived, she suspected that Han Jingru was the one who was behind all of this. Han Jingru speaking up just confirmed her suspicions.

Shi Yan knew that Han Jingru was intentionally doing this for her, hoping that she would make a statement to get back at Lin Fang.

Han Jingru strode toward Shi Yan. "Mom, this lousy hall doesn't match your status, so I got Zeng Xiao to prepare the Longhu Pavilion. That should be alright, shouldn't it?"

Shi Yan tried her best to stifle her laugh as she replied, "Of course it's fine. But isn't Longhu Pavilion a bit too much?"

Han Jingru was amazed that his mother had caught on so quickly, seeing that she was already playing along with his act. *Let's put on a good show then.*

"That's definitely not too much. It's the only hall here that can match your status."

Zeng Xiao waited for the right moment before he approached Han Jingru. "Mr. Han, I'm terribly sorry that I wasn't aware of your arrival at the establishment. Please forgive me for my impertinence."

"Let's just go. I am rather curious to see what the finest hall of this establishment has to offer. I want to see what it actually looks like," Han Jingru ordered.

"Of course, Mr. Han. Follow me." Zeng Xiao immediately guided them from the front.

The other classmates eventually snapped out of their daze as they began to follow suit.

are saying it is?" Lin Fang asked quietly.

Liu Wei kept his eyes fixed on Han Jingru, trying to figure out the extent of the latter's power, seeing that Zeng Xiao was willing to give him such treatment.

As for Lin Fang's question, he nodded. He had done a thorough research of the place and he definitely knew what Longhu Pavilion was.

The people who ate there all stood at the pinnacle of the social hierarchy.

"Indeed. I know that the people who have been into Longhu Pavilion were all highly prominent people. They're on a whole different level from us," Liu Wei explained.

Lin Fang pursed her lips in disdain. *I've been with several of the wealthiest people in the world; I doubt that there's another level that I have yet to see!*

Besides, she was not about to just let Shi Yan's son outshine her like that.

"Highly prominent? Can they be more prominent than the people I know?" Lin Fang scoffed.

"Those are two entirely different realms. The people you know, are rich, but Longhu Pavilion is made for the powerful. Lin Fang, I have a gut feeling that Shi Yan's son is more amazing than anyone here can ever imagine," Liu Wei told Lin Fang.