

The next day, many gathered around the Han Residence. These were Zhong Tianli's men who were prepared to strike at Su Yimo and Han Xiang.

Like Han Jingru had said, Zhong Tianli was a muscular idiot. His men were crowding around the Han Residence as if he were afraid that Han Jingru and the others would not realize their presence. Anyone with eyes would have known that the surrounding people had ill intentions.

“It looks like the Zhong family wants to play dirty tricks and target Yimo and Han Xiang. There are at least twenty people loitering outside,” Yan Qiong commented in exasperation when they were having their breakfast.

Similarly, Han Jingru was speechless. *What kind of a stupid opponent have I met? Does he not know what it means to mask your plans?*

“It looks like Zhong Tianli is the one planning this. Has Zhong Mingguo lost his mind to let an idiot like him do this?” Han Jingru huffed. He was sick of dealing with an opponent with barely

any intelligence.

“Zhong Tianyi should be the one in charge of this since he’s the one Zhong Mingguo has high hopes for,” Han Xiuzhi added.

Anyone could think of it, as that was logical planning. Han Jingru thought Zhong Tianli would be punished for what happened at the airport. However, not only was he not punished, but he also even managed to stay in charge of the matter.

“Grandpa, do you think Zhong Mingguo has grown old and lost his mind? I can’t believe he let an idiot like Zhong Tianli embarrass the family,” Han Jingru grumbled.

Han Xiuzhi had interacted with Zhong Mingguo in the past, and he knew the latter was a sly man. Although he was no longer as good as he was, Zhong Mingguo could not have been this foolish.

“I’m afraid Zhong Tianyi is involved in this,” Han Xiuzhi muttered.

“Zhong Tianyi?” Han Jingru hummed as he fell

deep into his thoughts. Abruptly, he raised his head and said, “Do you mean Zhong Tianyi is trying to use me to get rid of Zhong Tianli?”

“There aren’t any other explanations than this. Zhong Tianyi should be the one dealing with this, but he’s not. That means he has other motives. If an idiot like Zhong Tianli got the opportunity instead, that means something else is going on behind the curtain,” Han Xiuzhi observed.

Han Jingru nodded. This was the only way he could make sense of why Zhong Tianli was put in charge of something as important as this.

Right then, a series of hurried knocks on the door sounded out. It was so loud that whoever knocking on the door sounded like they wanted to break the door.

“This guy’s not planning to barge his way in, is he?” Han Jingru chuckled. If that were the case, Zhong Tianli would be an idiot of another level.

“I’ll go,” Yan Qiong muttered as he stood up.

“Grandpa Yan, I can’t let you do such a trivial thing. I’ll go.” Han Jingru stood up and glanced at Jiang Yingying. “Yingying, come with me.”

Jiang Yingying followed Han Jingru to the door. When she heard the curses behind the door, her expression turned cold.

“Jingru, leave these trashes to me,” Jiang Yingying uttered.

“Be gentler with them. Don’t kill them, or else we’ll have more trouble,” Han Jingru mumbled.

When the door opened, more than a dozen of people were shouting curses with ferocious looks.

Jiang Yingying took a step forward and stood by the doorway. “Shut up.”

When the group of people saw the slender woman stand out, they could not help but start mocking.

“Little girl, I’d suggest for you to get lost. My fists are legends themselves. If your face is

ruined, no man will want you.”

“You have a nice figure. Girl, why don’t you follow me? I’ll make sure you live a good life.”

A murderous look was in Jiang Yingying’s eyes. She was no longer a weak woman who was an easy target for anyone. Even if it was Qi Hu in front of her, he had to keep his head low and stay humble.

“Yingying, be gentler,” Han Jingru repeated when he noticed Jiang Yingying’s murderous gaze.

“Oh my. Tsk tsk.”

“Oh, nice one. This is a perfect kick to a vital point. The last eunuch is born.”

“Holy sh*t. That’s a rough punch. I don’t think the nasal bone will survive that.”

Every time Jiang Yingying landed a blow, Han Jingru made a comment. This was the first time he had seen her angry. He did not expect for her

to land heavy blows even after he reminded her twice. It seemed like they had truly infuriated her.

Regardless, Han Jingru was not going to intervene unless their lives were in danger.

The dozens of people were powerless against Jiang Yingying. Violence was her response to their mockery.

“F*ck, why is this woman so strong?”

“Damn it. Is she even human? How can she be this strong?”

“Charge!”

To Jiang Yingying, there was no difference between them attacking her one by one or them attacking her all at once. In less than two seconds, the only person left standing was a fearful man rooted to his spot, trembling. The others were all wailing in pain on the ground.

Jiang Yingying walked toward the last man standing.

The color drained out of his face as he stuttered, “D-Don’t come any closer!”

“Everyone’s on the ground, and you’re the only one standing. That doesn’t look too good. Let me help you,” Jiang Yingying murmured.

The man shuddered, and the next thing he did was somewhat amusing to Han Jingru.

“I’m down. I’m down.” At that, the man even jumped before he fell onto the ground, screaming.

In the end, Han Jingru chose to laugh. *It looks like a foolish man can only hire foolish people. I wonder where did Zhong Tianli find these people. They’re as stupid as humans can get.*

“That’s enough, Yingying,” Han Jingru said.

Jiang Yingying then quietly retreated to Han Jingru’s side.

Meanwhile, Zhong Tianli, who was in disguise and standing on the opposite street, was sweating

buckets. He didn't expect that even a woman by Han Jingru's side was so impressive. Although the dozens of people were no elite fighters, they were all men. Yet, a woman had easily defeated them all.

“Do you see that man over there?” Han Jingru pointed at Zhong Tianli. Although he was in disguise, it was easy to spot his large build. Hence, Han Jingru had spotted him with one glance.

“Yes.” Jiang Yingying nodded.

“Teach him a lesson for me,” Han Jingru instructed.

Silently, Jiang Yingying walked toward the opposite street.

The first thought that emerged in Zhong Tianli's mind was to run. A woman who had defeated dozens of men was not someone he could defeat, but if he did run, he would embarrass himself more. If the Zhong family heard about him not daring to face a woman, there was no way he

could stay in the family without being mocked all day long. Not only would he be mocked in the family, but the entire Yan City would also laugh at him.

His last shred of dignity forced him to stay still. Yet, he did not know the next thing that happened would embarrass him more than running away.

Even Qi Hu lost to Jiang Yingying. How could a man like Zhong Tianli, whose muscles were only for show, be a match for Jiang Yingying?

Once she was close to him, she leaped high and sent a flying kick in Zhong Tianli's direction.

Zhong Tianli was strong enough to withstand some of the force, as her weight was less than his.

However, the moment Zhong Tianli's arm and Jiang Yingying's leg came into contact, Zhong Tianli knew he was doomed. This was a force he could not stop.

Crack! Zhong Tianli could feel his arm break, and the pain instantly surged into his brain. However

, that was not the end of it. The momentum of her kick sent Zhong Tianli flying.

When the dust settled, Zhong Tianli's eyes were widened in shock as he lay on the ground.

He could not think of how a woman could be this strong. *How can she possess such terrifying strength? I'm a hundred kilograms, but she made it seem as if I was made of paper.*

“You're so stupid. How can you be Jingru's opponent?” Jiang Yingying scoffed in disdain.

Zhong Tianli was about to refute her when a middle-aged man in martial arts attire suddenly stood in front of him.

When he saw the man, hope burned bright in his eyes again. This was the man he had hired to go against Han Jingru. That man was Zhong Tianli's ace up his sleeve.

“Master Wang, you're finally here,” Zhong Tianli whispered.

A look of contempt flickered in Master Wang's eyes. *He's the son of the Zhong family, but he was defeated by a woman. How embarrassing. But since Zhong Tianli has given me enough money, I'll help him deal with this problem.*

“Young girl, I'd advise you to get on your knees and apologize to him right away. Or else, the only option for you is to die when I make my move,” Master Wang scoffed.



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The moment Master Wang confidently said his piece, Zhong Tianli, too, grew confident.

He stood up and seethed, “Master Wang, don’t let her off that easily. I want to break her legs.”

On the other hand, Jiang Yingying had no trace of fear on her face. In fact, she was even looking at them with derision. She did not take him seriously at all.

“Here’s my advice. Don’t be a busybody. Otherwise, you might not be able to hold on to your title of a master anymore,” Jiang Yingying voiced.

Master Wang’s expression turned gloomy. He never expected that the girl would be an arrogant fool who looked down on him.

Master Wang scoffed. “Since you’re not a smart one, you only have yourself to blame for my ruthlessness.”

“Please be ruthless. Otherwise, it’ll be boring,” Jiang Yingying responded.

The way Jiang Yingying was looking down on him caused rage to flow through Master Wang like hot lava. He was a man of fame in the Yan City martial arts world. He had to teach the woman who was looking down on him a lesson. Otherwise, if news of this spread, he would be terribly embarrassed.

“You fool. Take this!” Master Wang abruptly swung his fist at Jiang Yingying.

She had to admit that Master Wang did possess a certain amount of prowess. She could sense the force behind his punch, and it was impossible for his punch to be this swift if he were not a capable fighter.

However, it still did not mean much to Jiang Yingying.

In front of someone with absolute power, any fancy moves were nothing but a circus trick. So what if it was quick?

Jiang Yingying nimbly raised her right palm to catch the punch as she kept her left hand behind

her.

“You really have a death wish!” Master Wang bellowed when he saw her actions. Once again, he increased the force in his swinging fist.

Smack!

When his fist and her palm collided, he realized he could not swing his fist any further. It was as if he had punched a brick wall.

On the other hand, Jiang Yingying had a leisure expression on her face. Her right hand remained still as she easily blocked his attack.

Master Wang’s pupils widened dramatically as shock wrapped itself around his heart.

How can a young woman like her stop my mighty punch? How is this possible?

Moreover, the shockwaves that traveled back up his arm numbed it.

Now, Master Wang dared not underestimate Jiang

Yingying.

Right then, she muttered, “Master Wang, is that all you have? Did you have your breakfast this morning?”

Her question was the one Zhong Tianli felt like asking Master Wang too. He thought that his punch would destroy Jiang Yingying’s right hand, but nothing happened.

Master Wang’s mighty punch did not even move Jiang Yingying’s arm at all.

“Master Wang, what’s wrong?” Zhong Tianli inquired, confounded.

There was a tinge of horror in Master Wang’s eyes as he stared at Jiang Yingying. He never thought this seemingly ordinary young woman would be this impressive.

“I was just testing the waters. I wasn’t expecting you to know a little about fighting,” Master Wang uttered after he took a deep breath. He was being honest. It was true that he did not use all of his

strength yet. After all, he was up against a mere woman. How would he possibly use all his might?

“I’ll give you another chance. You’ll have to use all your strength this time.” Jiang Yingying flashed him a slight smile.

Her words were humiliating for Master Wang to hear, and he could barely keep the calm on his face. He gritted out, “You just don’t know when to give up, do you? I’m going to make sure I kill you today!”

“If you can do it, I’m all right with it,” Jiang Yingying replied.

Master Wang’s facial features twisted into an ugly, furious expression. He could not hold himself back after Jiang Yingying’s multiple provocations.

He retracted his punch and quietly gathered his strength into his fist. The next blow was meant to salvage his dignity and make the woman in front of him pay the price for looking down on him.

When Zhong Tianli saw Master Wang's veins popping on the back of his hand, he could not help but clench his fists tight. Rumors had it that Master Wang could kill an ox with a punch. Jiang Yingying was just a young woman.

“Master Wang, even if you kill her, I can cover up this incident for you. You don't need to worry about it,” Zhong Tianli told him.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru was already sitting by the doorway, watching the scene unfold. The appearance of Master Wang did not worry him the least bit. He knew ordinary people were no longer a match for Jiang Yingying. Furthermore, to Han Jingru, Master Wang was nothing more than a scammer. Hence, how could he possibly be of any threat to Jiang Yingying?

“Jingru, she's a girl.” Just then, Yan Qiong appeared, smiling and walking toward Han Jingru from behind him.

“Grandpa Yan, if anyone sees her as a girl, they'll pay the price for it,” Han Jingru remarked.

Without disagreeing with his statement, Yan Qiong sat down beside him. He said, “Keeping Jiang Yingying can be useful to you, but you have to be careful. After all, women tend to lure troubles toward themselves.”

Han Jingru chuckled. “For beautiful women, yes. But not for Jiang Yingying. I’m not saying she’s not pretty, but she’s capable of solving her own problems.”

Jiang Yingying was an excellent woman, in both figure and looks. For the average man, she was attractive. However, to Han Jingru, she could only be described with a word—normal.

“That’s true.” Yan Qiong nodded before continuing, “I hope you can make a name for yourself in the Apocalypse. That world must be more interesting than this one we’re in.”

Han Jingru could sense the anticipation in Yan Qiong’s words. It was evident that he wanted to take a look at Apocalypse, but Apocalypse was not a place anyone could go.

“Grandpa Yan, once I’m capable enough, I’ll bring you to Apocalypse. I’ll show you that mysterious place,” Han Jingru replied.

Yan Qiong smiled, feeling glad. He was delighted to hear Han Jingru’s words despite not having any intentions of going to the Apocalypse.

The current Yan Qiong could no longer provide any help to Han Jingru. At that point, he only hoped he would not bring any troubles to the young man. After all, he already had one foot in the grave. He was fine with living out the rest of his life like this.

Patting Han Jingru’s shoulder, Yan Qiong said, “I’m happy to hear that. The Apocalypse isn’t a place anyone can go. I don’t want to make things difficult for you.”

Han Jingru fell silent. He did not know much about Apocalypse, and he dared not promise Yan Qiong anything easily. However, if he had a chance, he would bring Yan Qiong there to witness for himself.

Meanwhile, Master Wang suddenly kneeled in front of Jiang Yingying.

Han Jingru could not help but burst into laughter. “He’s not much of a master, is he?”

“The masters in Yan City can even form a team at this point. People like him are those who haven’t seen the rest of the world,” Yan Qiong snorted.

Master Wang had used up all his strength in his second punch, but he still failed to move Jiang Yingying from her spot. On the other hand, the moment Jiang Yingying pushed her palm forward, the counter-shock numbed Master Wang’s entire arm.

Immediately, Master Wang realized he was no match for Jiang Yingying. Therefore, when Jiang Yingying swung her fist, he was quick to get on his knees.

He knew it was a punch that would send him straight to the afterlife, so all he could do was to kneel and plead for mercy.

“Master Wang, you...” Zhong Tianli stared at the scene, dumbfounded. This was the elite fighter he had hired with a hefty sum. *How can he be so weak? Jiang Yingying hasn't even made her move, but he's already on his knees!*

Master Wang grounded his teeth. If he knew the young woman was as powerful as this, he would not have accepted the task even if he was paid ten times the original amount.

The end of this fight signified the ruin of his reputation in Yan City.

“You're a master. How can you kneel like that? Stand up and fight,” Jiang Yingying commanded.

A shudder ran down Master Wang's spine as he mumbled, “Sorry, I'm no master. It's just a title I use to scare the others. How can I possibly fight with you? Have mercy on me, and please let me go.”

“But that was just a warm-up. We are only about to get to the real fight now. What do we do about that?” Jiang Yingying questioned with a look of dissatisfaction.

Master Wang’s heart sank. If their fight continued, the grim reaper would be waiting for him at the sidelines. Even if he did not die, he did not know how he was going to live the rest of his life as a cripple. Just as he was contemplating on how to get out of the situation, a thought entered his mind, and his eyes lit up with hope.

He lifted his head and said, “Miss, there will be a martial arts championship in Yan City in a few days. If you want to participate in it, I can help you. I’m sure you’ll enjoy it.”

“Martial arts championship?” Jiang Yingying frowned. She was not interested in things like this, as she found them a waste of her time. Just as she was about to reject him, Han Jingru’s voice sounded from behind her.

“Register her into the championship. She’ll be joining.”

Jiang Yingying turned around to cast puzzled eyes at him. “Jingru, aren’t we rushing home for New Year?”

“We’ll make it,” Han Jingru reassured with a smile. “But there aren’t many opportunities to take part in martial arts championships like this one. Don’t you want to find out how powerful you are?”

Jiang Yingying was mainly afraid that she would delay everyone’s schedule in returning to Yun City for New Year. However, she had no reason to reject after Han Jingru had spoken up.

“Alright, I’ll take part in it. Get lost now,” Jiang Yingying ordered.

“Yes, yes. I’ll hand you the invitation letter personally tomorrow.” At that, Master Wang was quick to make an escape.

Meanwhile, Zhong Tianli was still in the same spot with weak knees. He could neither leave nor stay.

“Zhong Tianli, it looks like the lesson I taught you was not enough. It seems like you’re trying to lay a finger on my family.” Han Jingru frigidly gazed at the other man.

Zhong Tianli’s knees were knocking onto each other as he trembled.

“I... I... No. I-I’m just passing by.” The gears were no longer working in Zhong Tianli’s mind, and he ended up with an absurd excuse.

“Who thought of this plan for you?” Han Jingru questioned. With how tactless Zhong Tianli was, Han Jingru was sure the former could not think of this approach himself.

“Zhong Tianyi. It was Zhong Tianyi who told me to do this,” Zhong Tianli confessed.

His answer was the same as what Han Jingru had guessed. It seemed like Zhong Tianyi did want to use him to get rid of Zhong Tianli.

“Do you know why he was so kind to come up with a plan for you?” Han Jingru asked.

Zhong Tianli shook his head stiffly. Not only did not he not know why Zhong Tianyi had thought of a plan for him, but he also could not understand why Zhong Tianyi had given him this opportunity.

“He’s hoping to get rid of you by using me,” Han Jingru answered.

Although Zhong Tianli was no witty person, he could easily comprehend Han Jingru’s words.

“No wonder he was willing to give me a chance. So that’s what he was thinking about,” Zhong Tianli gritted out.

Han Jingru shook his head, speechless. *He’s really an idiot. It’s so obvious, but he didn’t even realize it. The muscular ones really don’t have a brain.*

“I won’t make things difficult for you today. Get lost quickly. But if you appear here again, I won’t let you off so easily. Go back and tell Zhong Mingguo that he has a few days’ time. I expect him to kneel in front of the Han Residence before

the end of the martial arts championship, otherwise I'll wipe the Zhong family out," Han Jingru uttered in a glacial tone.

Like Master Wang, Zhong Tianli was swift to escape. Even his hatred toward Han Jingru had been shifted toward Zhong Tianyi.

When Zhong Tianli conveyed Han Jingru's message to Zhong Mingguo, Zhong Mingguo flew into a rage. Not only did he harshly reprimand Zhong Tianli, but he was also tempted to kill Han Jingru.

"How dare Han Jingru be so arrogant? I want him dead." He then turned to look at Zhong Tianyi.

With just one look, Zhong Tianyi knew his grandfather could no longer take it quietly anymore—he had to take over the matter now.

"Grandpa, isn't he participating in the martial arts championship? I'll humiliate him there.

Moreover, I heard the participants will have to sign an agreement that states that no one can hold the event accountable for their deaths. If he dares

to sign it, I'll make sure he dies in it," Zhong Tianyi expressed.

Hearing his words, Zhong Mingguo managed to calm himself down. "Tianyi, don't let me down."

Zhong Tianyi smiled and reassured, "Grandpa, I'm not like a certain someone who can only give empty promises. I'll definitely fulfill my promise to you."

Zhong Tianli understood the underlying mockery of his words, but he did not seethe in rage. In front of Zhong Mingguo, he did not have the right to lose his temper.

After Zhong Mingguo left, Zhong Tianli said to Zhong Tianyi, "Zhong Tianyi, I didn't think you'd be that cunning. I can't believe you tried to use Han Jingru to kill me. You must be disappointed that I've come back unscathed."

Zhong Tianyi gave him a side-eye and replied, "Do you think I actually spend time thinking about trash like you?"

Wrath overpowered him, and Zhong Tianli walked toward Zhong Tianyi and wrapped his hands around the latter's neck.

“Believe it or not, I'll break your neck,” Zhong Tianli threatened.

Zhong Tianyi remained expressionless as he stared at Zhong Tianli's feral look. “Do you have the courage to hurt me? Do it. Let's see if Grandpa will kick you out of the Zhong family. I'm the pillar of the family. What are you? You're a useless piece of crap.”

His words made Zhong Tianli's temper spark, but he knew Zhong Tianyi was right. Seeing as how Zhong Mingguo valued Zhong Tianyi, if he hurt him, Zhong Mingguo would chase him out of the Zhong family without hesitation.

“What's wrong? Have you lost your guts? Are you afraid that you'll become a beggar after getting chased out of the Zhong family?” Zhong Tianyi taunted.

Zhong Tianli's hands were shaking from rage, but

no matter how angry he was, he retained a shred of rationality in him. Then, he let go of Zhong Tianyi.

Zhong Tianyi mocked, “Look at how capable you are. What right do you have to fight with me?”

“Zhong Tianyi, I will watch you as you lose to Han Jingru. When that happens, let’s see if you still have the cheek to act all high and mighty in front of me,” Zhong Tianli voiced.

“Do you think I will end up like you? To me, Han Jingru is even worse than you,” Zhong Tianyi huffed.

Zhong Tianli did not respond to him. At that moment, he wished that Zhong Tianyi would lose to Han Jingru. Even if that was a disastrous blow to the Zhong family, he did not want to see Zhong Tianyi acting all smug like this.

“Underestimating him will be the biggest mistake you’ve ever made,” Zhong Tianli mumbled under his breath as he watched Zhong Tianyi’s retreating figure. Before he fought with Han

Jingru, he, too, thought that Han Jingru was a good-for-nothing. However, he no longer thought of him as that. He had yet to find out how powerful Han Jingru was, but he had witnessed how powerful the young woman by his side was.

If a female subordinate of his was that imposing, that meant Han Jingru's true strength was at a level Zhong Tianli could not imagine.

The next day, as promised, Master Wang sent the martial arts championship's invitation letter to the Han Residence. He had brought two letters—one was for Han Jingru.

"I won't be participating. Jiang Yingying will be the only one," Han Jingru said.

Master Wang did not have any look of contempt on his face. Although Jiang Yingying had humiliated him, the strong were respected in the world of martial arts. It was a fact that he had lost, and he had to face reality.

"Countless elite fighters are participating in the martial arts championship. Are you sure you're

going to let her join it alone?” Master Wang tentatively asked.

“Isn’t that enough? I’m afraid the martial arts championship might not even be enough for her.” Han Jingru laughed.

Master Wang glanced at Jiang Yingying from the corner of his eyes. *Did she not use all of her strength when she was fighting with me? If she still has more hidden up her sleeves, that’s terrifying!*

Not only is she a woman, but she’s a young one too.

Mastering martial arts was like creating a hole through dripping water. The practitioners of it needed time to build their prowess. Even the most talented fighters were not born with the knowledge of martial arts. They needed time to practice.

Right then, Jiang Yingying asked, “What’s Lingyun Martial Arts Academy?”

A hint of embarrassment flickered on Master Wang's face. "This is the name of my martial arts academy. Only members of the martial arts academy can join the martial arts championship. That's why I signed you up under Lingyun Martial Arts Academy."

Displeasure instantly overtook Jiang Yingying's expression. *Doesn't this mean I'm representing Master Wang?*



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Master Wang's motives were obvious. He wanted to make a name for his martial arts academy with Jiang Yingying's fighting prowess.

The martial arts championship was held every three years. To Master Wang, this was a rare opportunity that he did not want to miss. Moreover, he had a good reason for it. The only eligible participants were those who registered under one of the martial arts academies.

“Master Wang, aren't you a smart one to use me?” Jiang Yingying coldly uttered, her tone murderous.

Master Wang quickly lowered his head and explained, “You have to do this to take part in the martial arts championship. The rules are strict. Without registering with a martial arts academy, I can't get the invitation for you.”

Han Jingru glanced at Jiang Yingying, signaling her not to get angry. After all, he only wanted Jiang Yingying to gain some experience in real battles this time. Whoever she was representing was not important.

“In that case, take us to have a look at your martial arts academy,” Han Jingru muttered.

“Of course,” Master Wang hastily said.

Jiang Yingying trudged behind Han Jingru unwillingly. “Jingru, why are you letting him benefit from this?”

“They have their own rules. Since you’re taking part in this game, you’ll have to follow their rules,” Han Jingru chuckled.

“Can’t I represent the Han family instead?” Jiang Yingying did not want to fight for nothing. Even if she were to take part in a battle, it was only worth it if she were to represent the Han family.

Han Jingru smiled. He did not expect Jiang Yingying to have this kind of thoughts. However, reputation was not important for the Han family. Even if the Han family had declined and no longer had a good reputation, Han Jingru did not need this event to improve the Han family’s status. After all, they still had a stepping stone—the Zhong family. Once he destroyed the Zhong

family, the Han family would return to its previous glory.

“Yingying, the Han family doesn’t have a martial arts academy. It would be too late even if we were to open one now,” Han Jingru explained.

Jiang Yingying sighed in resignation.

Yan City was a large city. Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was an hour’s drive from Han Residence.

When they reached Lingyun Martial Arts Academy, Han Jingru realized it had a great environment. Moreover, the academy seemed spacious and grand. It looked like Master Wang was doing well for himself in the martial arts world. Han Jingru thought, *He must be quite a popular man in Yan City.*

The only issue he could spot was that the academy had very few people around. That was why it looked exceptionally spacious.

“Do you only have so few people around in such

a large space?” Han Jingru inquired.

Master Wang could not help but sigh at his question. In the past, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was a reputable academy, and they had hundreds of students. However, more academies opened nearby in recent years, and Lingyun Martial Arts Academy did not gain an outstanding results in the past two martial arts championships. Hence, many of their students had left the academy.

“Lingyun Martial Arts Academy used to be one of the top-ten academy in Yan City, but I’m old, and I don’t have many fine disciples. That’s why it turned out like this,” Master Wang divulged.

Han Jingru did not ask further questions from there. It was all but a mere martial arts academy, and it was not worth his time.

In Yun City, Tian Jingshuo was also a martial arts lover. He, too, had his own martial arts academy. However, Yun City’s martial arts scene was not as competitive as Yan City, and the Tian family was well-respected in Yun City. Thus, no one

would dare to compete with him there.

“How many will be taking part in the championship?” Han Jingru asked.

“There will be three categories for the championship—Junior, Youth, and Master. The Master group consists of elite fighters from various martial arts academies. Furthermore, the owner of the martial arts academy is allowed to join the competition. There’s a total of one hundred and eight participants,” Master Wang explained.

“A hundred and eight. An interesting figure. What category is Jiang Yingying in?” Han Jingru asked.

“I’ve arranged for her to be in the Youth Category. Her age is appropriate for the category, and I’m sure she’ll be the champion,” Master Wang answered.

Han Jingru shook his head. That was only the Youth Category. It was not challenging enough for Jiang Yingying. Just as he was about to speak,

Master Wang continued, “There’s an age restriction for the Junior category, and she’s older than that. That’s why she can’t join under that category.”

Han Jingru burst into laughter. *Is his brain functioning fine? How can he possibly sign her up for the Junior Category?*

“Register her in the Master Category,” Han Jingru instructed.

Master Wang’s jaw dropped. Although he knew that Jiang Yingying was a strong fighter, it still did not seem right for her to take part in the Master category. After all, everyone in that category was an elite fighter. Furthermore, he had heard that several owners of martial arts academies would be participating this time. Not only were the fights under the Master category intense, but they were even mostly bloody. *How can he let Jiang Yingying, a woman, join that?*

“Y-You shouldn’t. The competitions in the Master Category is dangerous, and she might die,” Master Wang persuaded.

Right then, behind Han Jingru, Jiang Yingying coldly voiced, “Are you looking down on me?”

Master Wang flinched in fear. “N-No. That’s not what I meant.”

“If that’s not the case, why aren’t you signing me up for it yet? I’m not interested in the Youth Category,” Jiang Yingying muttered.

Master Wang thought that either the two had lost their minds, or they had no idea what the rules of the championship were. “The participants for the Master category have to sign a paper dismissing the event’s responsibility for their deaths.”

“That’s even better. I can go all out,” Jiang Yingying declared.

If Master Wang were not afraid of Jiang Yingying’s strength, he would have cursed out loud. *Do you think the championship is a game for children? This is where the elites gather. I can’t believe she’s underestimating it.*

“Are you sure?” Master Wang asked again.

“Do you have any problem with that?” Jiang Yingying questioned.

After taking in a deep breath, Master Wang nodded. “All right. I’ll sign you up for it.”

After Master Wang added her name to the list of participants for the Master category, the entire Yan City was in an uproar. It was obvious that the name belonged to a woman. They were in disbelief at the news that Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was sending a woman to join the Master Category. Some even felt that Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was sending her to her death.

After sending Han Jingru and her off, Master Wang sat in the corner of his academy in a daze. He knew that many would be laughing at him for sending a woman to battle, but he had no choice. Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying were adamant about it.

In the afternoon, a man around Master Wang’s age came to Lingyun Martial Arts Academy with several young men.

When the man saw Master Wang, a taunting smile grew on his lips. “Wang, I heard you’re sending a woman to take part in the Master category for the martial arts championship. Have you run out of people to send? Do you need to send a woman to her death?”

“Fang Zhantian.” Upon seeing the man, Master Wang gritted his teeth. He and Fang Zhantian learned from the same master, but they had a falling out and ended up building their own martial arts academies. A major reason why Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was now in a slump was because of Fang Zhantian.

Back then, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy had been a place where many talented people gathered. Fang Zhantian had used underhanded tricks to lure them away, and that was why Lingyun Martial Arts Academy could not rise back to its former glory until now.

“We’re fellow classmates. If you don’t have anyone to send, you could’ve told me, and I’d have sent you some,” Fang Zhan chortled.

Behind him, the few young men were tall with bulging muscles.

Fang Zhantian continued, “Look at the people from Zhantian Martial Arts Academy. They’re all elites. How are they? They’re stronger than a woman, right?”

“Fang Zhantian, are you here to show off?”
Master Wang hissed.

“Wang, why are you so petty? I’m here to help you avoid becoming the laughing stock of the martial arts world. It’s embarrassing to let a woman represent Lingyun Martial Arts Academy. We’re fellow classmates at the end of the day. If you embarrass yourself you might affect my reputation as well,” Fang Zhantian uttered.

“How nice of you. But I don’t need your help. Take your men and get lost.”

Fang Zhantian turned grim. “Wang, be appreciative.”

“You’re not qualified to meddle in the Lingyun

Martial Arts Academy's affairs," Master Wang stated.

"It looks like you really have a death wish. If that's the case, let me share with you a piece of good news. My disciple, Lei Heming, will also be joining the Master Category," Fang Zhantian announced.

Upon hearing his disciple's name, Master Wang's face paled.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

Lei Heming was a talented man who recently rose to fame. He was the strongest fighter among his peers. Many martial arts academies had declined due to Zhantian Martial Arts Academy's frequent challenges these two years. Lei Heming had been the one to succeed in these challenges, and that was why Zhantian Martial Arts Academy was slowly becoming the top martial arts academy of Yan City.

It was rumored that Lei Heming would not participate in the upcoming martial arts championship, and many heaved sighs of relief. However, Master Wang was surprised to find that the rumors were fake.

Since Fang Zhantian was the one to announce it, there was no need to doubt Lei Heming's participation in the upcoming championship. It seemed like he would really be the champion for this round.

Lei Heming had defeated countless martial arts academy owners. The others were no match for him.

Looking at the shocked expression Master Wang had, Fang Zhantian gleefully smirked. This was why he wanted Lei Heming to take on the challenges. He wanted everyone to be frightened out of their wits when they heard Lei Heming's name.

“Are you scared? That's normal. You should feel scared with how strong Lei Heming is,” Fang Zhantian crowed.

Master Wang took in a deep breath. It was true that he was afraid. Even if he was not participating in the championship, the reputation Lei Heming had intimidated him.

Although Jiang Yingying was a capable fighter, she was no match for Lei Heming.

“Here's my advice. It's best if you tell that woman to quit the competition. Otherwise, Lei Heming will kill her on the ring,” Fang Zhantian continued.

Master Wang's heart sank. Evidently, Fang Zhantian was planning to kill everyone in his

way. If he were to choose to quit the championship now, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy would become the laughingstock of the Yan City's martial arts world. But if he did not, Jiang Yingying would be in danger.

“Fang Zhantian, do you have to be so cruel?”
Master Wang grounded out.

“Am I supposed to show mercy to rubbish? I learned from the same master as you, and I hope you won't affect our master's reputation. Think about it. If she dares to enter the ring, I'll make sure she won't leave the ring alive,” Fang Zhantian concluded.

Master Wang drooped his shoulders and hung his head, looking resigned. After Fang Zhantian and his group left, he collapsed onto the ground.

Master Wang could not even struggle in the face of genuine power. He had hoped that Jiang Yingying could salvage Lingyun Martial Arts Academy's reputation, but it now seemed impossible.

“Master, that woman’s dumb. Why can’t she just join the competition for the Youth Category? Why must she join the Master Category? Now that she’s up against Lei Heming, only death is waiting for her,” a young man in his twenties grumbled to Master Wang.

Master Wang flashed him a bitter smile. He, too, had not expected that Jiang Yingying would have thoughts like that. However, everyone in Yan City’s martial arts world had already heard about her registration in the Master Category. It was all too late then.

“So what if we’re embarrassed? Lingyun Martial Arts Academy has had its fair share of embarrassment anyway,” Master Wang mumbled as he stood back up.

When the young man saw him leaving, he hastily queried, “Master, where are you going?”

“I’m going to ask her to quit the competition.”

Once again, Master Wang was back outside the Han Residence. He knew well about the Han

family, like all other locals in Yan City. All he could feel when he stood outside the house was a wistful sense of pity. He felt the same when the glorious Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was experiencing its downfall.

“We’re the same. It looks like no one can be immortalized in history. The glorious days will always come to an end,” Master Wang sighed to himself before pressing the Han Residence’s doorbell.

The door opened, and when Master Wang saw Yan Qiong, he faintly smiled.

Yan Qiong had once been the mastermind behind the bloodbath in Yan City. During Han Xiuzhi’s era, Yan Qiong’s name was the name of the devil. It was a pity that he, too, had grown old.

“Who are you looking for?” Yan Qiong asked with a stern look.

“I’m Wang Xin from Lingyun Martial Arts Academy. I’m here to look for Han Jingru,” Master Wang replied.

Yan Qiong had heard about the martial arts championship, and he knew that Wang Xin was the one to sign Jiang Yingying up for the competition. Hence, he led the other man into the house.

“The martial arts championship is held every three years, and I’ve heard that Lingyun Martial Arts Academy hasn’t had good results for the past two times,” Yan Qiong said as he led Wang Xin to Han Jingru.

Wang Xin sighed, “Ever since the other academies took the talented ones from Lingyun Martial Arts Academy, I’ve yet to come across a chance to revive it. I’ve already done everything I can to keep it alive until now. I really don’t know what else can be done...”

There was an embarrassing matter that even Wang Xin did not wish to think about. Everyone who remained in Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was getting paid. They only stayed behind because of money. Otherwise, he would be the only one left in Lingyun Martial Arts Academy.

“I’m sure Lingyun Martial Arts Academy will be revived this time,” Yan Qiong laughed. With Jiang Yingying joining two categories at the same time, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy was definitely going to impress everyone and return to its prime state. In fact, it might even become better than it used to be.

“Have you heard of Lei Heming?” Wang Xin asked.

“Yes. He’s a talented young man who has won many challenges. I heard he’s only in his twenties. He has a bright future ahead,” Yan Qiong responded.

“I wasn’t expecting for you to have such a good impression on him. He’s taking part in the Master Category this time. If he’s there, how can any other martial arts academy show their potential?” Wang Xin shook his head, feeling helpless. Lei Heming was too powerful, and even many owners of martial arts academies were not his match. It was not an absurd statement to say that he would be the champion.

“Do you have so little confidence in Jiang Yingying?” Yan Qiong chuckled. *This guy really doesn't have to worry. The moment Jiang Yingying enters the ring, she's undefeatable.*

It was not that Wang Xin was not confident in her, but that he dared not hope for the best. Jiang Yingying had won against him, but that was not an indicator of how powerful she was. After all, he was old and weak. On the other hand, Lei Heming was at his peak state. *How will Jiang Yingying win against him?*

When Wang Xin saw Han Jingru, the latter was trying to get Han Xiang to sleep. He made a silencing gesture to Wang Xin, and Wang Xin stood quietly aside.

To Wang Xin, other than looking handsome, there was nothing special about Han Jingru. He could not connect the doting father in front of him to the man who announced that everyone who was against the Han family had to kneel in front of the Han Residence—the two sides of him were vastly different.

Was he only bluffing?

But these words have crossed many prominent families of Yan City. If he isn't as strong as he claims, his words will lead to the Han family's demise.

Ten minutes later, Han Xiang finally fell asleep. After handing her to Su Yimo, he led Wang Xin to the front yard.

“Why are you in such a hurry to meet me? Did anything happen?” Han Jingru inquired.

After a moment of hesitation, Wang Xin mumbled, “I’m hoping for Jiang Yingying to quit the competition.”

Han Jingru frowned. *He was hoping that Jiang Yingying will salvage his martial arts academy's reputation. Why is he suddenly asking Jiang Yingying to quit?*

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

“After you left, the owner of Zhantian Martial

Arts Academy came to me. There's someone impressive in that academy named Lei Heming. He'll be joining the Master Category this time. He's already said he'll kill Jiang Yingying in the ring. I don't want any innocent people to be hurt in this," Wang Xin explained.

Han Jingru was baffled by his words. *He set Jiang Yingying up to represent the Lingyun Martial Arts Academy, but now he's worried about her safety. What kind of person is he?*

"You found your conscience?" Han Jingru laughed.

"I admit I do want to use her, but only if it doesn't endanger her life. It's different now. If she fights Lei Heming, she'll definitely die. I don't want to be the one to take her life," Wang Xin answered.

"It looks like you have a baseline of your own. But why are you doing this for a person like Zhong Tianli? You should know what kind of person he is," Han Jingru asked in curiosity. Wang Xin was acting vastly different from

earlier, and Han Jingru was curious about what kind of a man Wang Xin truly was.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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At the mention of Zhong Tianli, a look of helplessness with a tinge of bitterness emerged on Wang Xin's face. Lingyun Martial Arts Academy needed money to continue its operations, and he was already using the last of his funds. Hence, Wang Xin had no other option but to take on some immoral tasks.

“If I tell you I did it for money, will it sound like an excuse?” Wang Xin replied.

“Does Lingyun Martial Arts Academy not have enough funds?” Han Jingru questioned in surprise. Lingyun Martial Arts Academy looked like a grand martial arts academy, and it looked even better than Tian Jingshuo's. *How is it possible that he doesn't have enough money?*

“Yes. I'm really short on funds. In the past, when it was at its prime time, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy earned a lot for me. But now that it's in its downfall, not only is it not profiting, but I'm even losing money every day. Those people you saw in the academy, it would be more appropriate to consider them as my employees rather than my students. I pay them a wage. If not for the money,

they would have left. Perhaps I'd be the only one left in the academy," Wang Xin sighed.

Han Jingru burst into laughter. *This master is so miserable. He needs to keep his disciples by his side with money. I'm afraid he's the only one in the world doing this.*

Wang Xin was mindless of Han Jingru's mocking laugh. This was reality, and he had no reason to refute the younger man.

"If you don't have money, why are you persisting?" Han Jingru wondered.

"The martial arts academy is my only dream in life. If I don't have it, I'd rather die." Wang Xin suddenly sounded determined. This was his faith. He had been studying martial arts for his entire life, hoping to train more practitioners of martial arts. If he no longer had his martial arts academy, there was no point in living.

Han Jingru fell silent. After a while, he muttered, "I'll give you a hundred million so that you'll have the funds to get more students. But these

people will listen to me.”

A hundred million!

Even when Wang Xin was at his peak period, a hundred million was a huge sum to him. Yet, Han Jingru was giving it to him as if it was a small amount.

“Y-You’re not pulling my leg, are you? A hundred million?” Wang Xin asked in a trembling voice.

“Look at me. Do I look like I’m joking? Or do you think that the son of the Han family doesn’t have this amount of money?” Han Jingru muttered.

Although the Han family was not doing as well as they used to, they were still a wealthy family. It was just a hundred million. How could the Han family not have that?

However, what Wang Xin could not understand is why Han Jingru would invest so much into the Lingyun Martial Arts Academy.

“What help do you need from them?” Wang Xin queried.

“Don’t worry. I won’t do anything illegal. Moreover, I might never use them at all,” Han Jingru muttered. This was just a precaution in his grand plan. Being cautious since young, he was used to having a contingency plan for every step he took. Seeing as he was heading to Apocalypse, Han Jingru felt that perhaps Lingyun Martial Arts Academy might be of help in the future.

Of course, the primary reason for doing this was because he was rich. Han Jingru didn’t need to care about a small amount like this. With the Nangong family supporting him financially, he did not need to bat an eye at a hundred million.

He was a great example of a carefree rich man.

“Are you sure you’re not joking with me?” Wang Xin repeated, unsure about the authenticity of Han Jingru’s words.

“Of course not. This amount is nothing but spare change for me,” Han Jingru reassured.

Wang Xin's jaw dropped. This was the action of a genuinely rich person. It was a hundred million, but it was only spare change to him. He was sure that this amount of spare change was more than the annual wage of ninety-nine percent of people in the world.

“Jiang Yingying won't be quitting the Master Category competition,” Han Jingru continued.

The original topic finally returned to the conversation.

The key reason why Wang Xin had come to Han Jingru was because of this matter. He knew how strong Lei Heming was, and that was why he knew better than Han Jingru the dangers Jiang Yingying would face after entering the ring.

When he realized Han Jingru refused to let Jiang Yingying quit the competition, Wang Xin persuaded, “It's really not a wise choice to fight with Lei Heming. Please reconsider.”

“What do you need to impress someone?” Han Jingru asked the question out of the blue.

After a moment of rumination, Wang Xin answered, “Having tyrannical strength. It’ll be even better if you have a stepping stone.”

While it was important to possess great strength, the most important part was to have a stepping stone. The stepping stone could show off the individual’s power. Without it, no one would find out about the great strength the individual had.

“Isn’t Lei Heming a good stepping stone?” Han Jingru chortled.

Wang Xin’s eyes widened into saucers. *He’s planning to use Lei Heming as a stepping stone!*

If his words spread out, how many will be laughing at him?

Everyone in Yan City’s martial arts world knew how strong Lei Heming was. His challenges had been the cause of many uproars in the martial arts world, and countless saw him as their role models. A rising star like him was destined to soar in his career. In fact, he might even become the most powerful person in the entire martial arts

world.

Yet, a powerful character like him was only a stepping stone in Han Jingru's mind.

For a long while, Wang Xin struggled to recollect his thoughts. His mind had stopped working.

“Yingying is much stronger than Lei Heming. Don't worry. Just enjoy her performance from your seat in the audience section,” Han Jingru continued.

Wang Xin nodded stiffly, still lost in a daze. At that point, he was at a loss for words.

After leaving Han Residence, Wang Xin had yet to fully regain his senses. Although he had gotten a hundred million to maintain Lingyun Martial Arts Academy's operations, the shock from Han Jingru's words was greater than the shock from the hundred million.

Lei Heming!

That's Lei Heming we're talking about!

How can he have such a thought?

Maybe he isn't boasting about Jiang Yingying's abilities. What if she really is capable of doing that?

At that thought, Wang Xin could not help but gasp. If Jiang Yingying were that capable, she would not only be impressing the audience. *I'm sure the entire Yan City's martial arts world would be shocked to their core.*

Moreover, she was just a woman.

At that moment, Wang Xin could not help but look forward to her performance. In fact, he even started to hope that the martial arts championship would begin sooner so that he could witness her true might.

“Fang Zhantian, maybe you're wrong this time. I look forward to seeing your expression when Lei Heming is defeated by a woman,” Wang Xin mumbled under his breath.

At Han Residence.

Jiang Yingying would go for her scheduled training everyday.

Right after her training ended, she went to look for Han Jingru and queried, “Jingru, I heard Master Wang is here again?”

“That’s right.” Han Jingru nodded.

“Why is he here? Are there any changes to the competition?” Jiang Yingying asked in concern.

“He said there’ll be an elite named Lei Heming who will be participating in the Master Category. He has some issues with that person, and the other party has stated that he’ll kill you if you insist on entering the ring. He came to persuade you to quit the competition,” Han Jingru briefed.

Jiang Yingying instantly tensed up. Initially, she did not care about the martial arts championship, but ever since she found out about Han Jingru’s reason for asking her to join, she had been preparing herself for it. If she were to quit the competition, she would feel discontented.

“Jingru, you didn’t say yes to him, did you?”
Jiang Yingying asked nervously.

Han Jingru smiled and shook his head. “How can I possibly do that? I don’t think that Lei Heming is your match at all.”

Jiang Yingying breathed a sigh of relief. *That’s good to hear.*

“Jingru, don’t worry. I won’t embarrass you,”
Jiang Yingying declared.

“Since Lei Heming is a rising star in Yan City’s martial arts world, and he has had many successful challenges, it means that he’s someone who can really fight. Don’t let your guard down,” Han Jingru reminded.

Jiang Yingying nodded firmly. “I’ll lengthen my training duration from now on. I don’t care who Lei Heming is. I’ll make sure he is sprawled on the ground when the fight ends.”

As the day of the martial arts championship approached, the discussion of Jiang Yingying's participation in the Master Category became more and more heated. Almost the entire martial arts championship thought of the matter as a joke.

Issues of gender inequality were abundant here. To many practitioners of the martial arts, women were unrelated to martial arts. As such, for a woman to join the championship in the Master Category was the joke of the century. The entire incident was as if a woman had barged into a men's bathhouse. Not only would she attract everyone's questioning gazes, but she would also be mocked.

At the same time, an even more shocking piece of news stunned the martial arts world.

When Zhantian Martial Arts Academy announced Lei Heming's participation in the Master Category, every participant in that category wailed. They knew about Lei Heming's fighting prowess, and they felt hopeless upon finding out that he was their opponent.

There were even rumors of some planning to quit the Master Category competition as they did not want to be up against Lei Heming.

It was obvious that Lei Heming was terrifying. Before the competition even started, people were already in a hurry to admit defeat.

At Zhantian Martial Arts Academy.

When Fang Zhantian heard that some had quitted the competition, a wide, gleeful smile grew on his face. *We don't need to have any competition. We can just use Lei Heming's name, and they're already running off with their tails between their legs.*

“How miserable. They don't even have the courage to fight in a competition. How can they say that they're practitioners of martial arts? What a joke,” Fang Zhan commented.

Behind Fang Zhantian was a proud young man with his head raised high. He lowered his head for no one, and it was as if his pride had seeped into his bones. No matter what move he made, or

what looks he had, he seemed to look down on everyone.

“Master Fang, if these people have quitted the competition, does it mean that I’ll be the champion without needing to fight? That’s boring.” The young man was Lei Heming. He had the right to be arrogant. Even if his shoelaces were untied, someone would tie it for him without hesitation.

“That’s right. That’s boring.” Fang Zhantian shook his head. Although he had a remorseful tone, the grin on his face widened.

“Master Fang, the representative of Lingyun Martial Arts Academy doesn’t seem to be quitting the competition. It looks like Wang Xin is really planning to send a woman to the championship,” another person noted.

At the mention of Wang Xin, a ferocious expression grew on Fang Zhantian’s face. If he could, he would have stomped his fellow classmate into the mud.

“That idiot. If Master were still alive, I’d definitely ask him to expel Wang. Being fellow classmates with him is the most shameful thing in my life,” Fang Zhantian grunted.

“A woman? I don’t like to hit women, but if she insists on fighting against me, she can’t blame me if I hurt her,” Lei Heming muttered.

“If she really takes part in it, kill her,” Fang Zhantian gritted out.

Lei Heming nodded. Those who entered the ring had to sign an indemnity contract, so the participants or the organizers would not be held accountable if death occurred.

“Don’t worry. I won’t show any mercy,” Lei Heming reassured.

“I’m going to make sure Lingyun Martial Arts Academy will never rise again this time.”

A day before the championship, Fang Zhantian went to the Martial Arts Association, hoping to intervene in the list of matches. He wanted Lei

Heming to fight against Jiang Yingying in the first match. Since he was planning to force Lingyun Martial Arts Academy to the edge of the cliff, it was best to kill Jiang Yingying in the first match.

“President, name your price. This is just a mere flick of a finger for you. I’m sure you won’t reject me, right?” Fang Zhantian crowed. It was not as if nothing akin to this had happened in the past. The president could easily obtain a sum of money for a trivial matter like this. Hence, Fang Zhantian was sure that the president would not reject him.

“If this was in the past, I might have said yes to you, but not for this time,” the president replied.

Fang Zhantian had come with confidence, not expecting to be rejected. He frowned. “Why not this time? As long as you name your price, I’ll pay you whatever amount you want.”

“This isn’t a monetary issue.” The president gave him a helpless smile. “I’ll be honest with you. Someone even more powerful has intervened in

this matter. He's hoping that no one will be causing troubles in the shadows."

"Someone more powerful?" Fang Zhantian's frown deepened. "You're the president, and the martial arts championship is held by the Martial Arts Association. Who can possibly have a higher status than you?"

"Although he's no one from the martial arts world, his status and influence are greater than mine. No one will do the things he restricts, so it's best for you to dismiss that thought of yours," the president confessed. He wanted to earn some easy money, but he did not have the courage to. He would be doomed if someone found out about it.

Unwilling to admit defeat, Fang Zhantian questioned, "Who's that powerful person?"

"I don't know who he is, too, but I've received word from the upper level that a lot of people are paying attention to the championship this time round. Moreover, they're all prominent figures. I'll tell you this. The martial arts championship

this time won't be as simple as the previous times. Whoever wins the championship might be able to get the opportunity of a lifetime," the president uttered.

Various thoughts flashed across Fang Zhantian's mind. *If prominent figures are paying attention to this event, then Lei Heming will definitely attract their attention with his fight this time. That means someone powerful might value Zhantian Martial Arts Academy after this championship.*

"Do you mean to say that... They're people from the upper class?" Fang Zhan speculated. Even his breathing turned rapid as he said those words.

For a practitioner of martial arts like Fang Zhantian, he knew about the existence of the Apocalypse. That was the dream of every man in the martial arts world. To be worthy of joining the Apocalypse was to have the most sacred honor bestowed upon the individual.

The president only smiled silently as he dared not discuss matters like this. He could only let Fang Zhantian come to a conclusion himself.

Fang Zhantian smiled, easily understanding what the president meant. “The Zhantian Martial Arts Academy will be the champion this time round. No one can win us.”

“It’s true that Lei Heming is capable of that. All the best.”

After leaving the Martial Arts Association, Fang Zhantian returned to Zhantian Martial Arts Academy and told Lei Heming to go to his office.

“Master Fang, why are you looking for me so urgently? It can’t be that no one is taking part in the Master Category competition anymore, can it?” Lei Heming voiced with a smirk.

“Do you remember what I’ve told you earlier?” Fang Zhantian inquired.

Lei Heming switched his expression to a stern one. “Of course.”

“It seems like the people from the Apocalypse will appear in the martial arts championship. Maybe they’re planning to recruit new

members,” Fang Zhantian continued.

Concealing his excitement, Lei Heming responded, “Who else is qualified for it but me?”

“To make sure things proceed smoothly, you can’t let your guard down this time,” Fang Zhantian reminded. In the beginning, he paid minimal attention to this matter. However, the championship now had a different meaning to it. With the Apocalypse joining in, Fang Zhantian did not wish to see Lei Heming missing the opportunity because of the young man’s arrogance.

Once Lei Heming joined the Apocalypse, the glorious days of Zhantian Martial Arts Academy would arrive.

“Haha,” Lei Heming chuckled. “Master Fang, are you scared that I’d lose? Who’s a match for me in the entire Yan City’s martial arts world?”

Fang Zhantian nodded. It was true that there was no one who could win against Lei Heming. It seemed like his reminder to Lei Heming was

unnecessary.

“All right. Finish your first match as quickly as possible tomorrow. Show Apocalypse what you’re made of,” Fang Zhantian instructed.

“I’ll win in three moves,” Lei Heming answered confidently.

The next day, the stadium where the Master Category competition was held was abnormally lively. All the seats in the audience section was almost fully taken up.

The opponents of each match were decided by drawing lots. Jiang Yingying and Lei Heming did not encounter each other during the preliminaries, and she felt a tinge of pity in her heart. Fang Zhantian had hoped that Lei Heming would get rid of Jiang Yingying in the first round, and that was a thought shared by Jiang Yingying. It was a pity that fate had not let their wishes come true.

When it was Jiang Yingying’s turn to go on the stage, the audience finally got a glimpse of the woman in the limelight of the recent rumors.

It was a joke for a woman to join the competition in the Master Category. Hence, when Jiang Yingying stepped into the ring, some were unable to contain their laughter.

She looks skinny and weak. I can't believe she has the guts to join the Master Category.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Lingyun Martial Arts Academy is really going to embarrass themselves this time. I can’t believe they’re letting a weak woman like her join the Master Category.”

“Even if you want to be a sensationalist, this isn’t the way. Wang Xin must have lost his marbles.”

“He’s using this to improve Lingyun Martial Arts Academy’s reputation. I really don’t know what Wang Xin is thinking about. Does he think that a ridiculous fight like this will return Lingyun Martial Arts Academy to its former glory?”

“Maybe Wang Xin is trying out an unorthodox method for people to remember his academy. I’d say Lingyun Martial Arts Academy is coming to its end.”

The audience was in a heated discussion about the matter. However, there was one thing they all agreed on—Jiang Yingying’s participation was a joke. She would bring no surprise to them.

Although Wang Xin was in the front row, he could still clearly hear the discussion. Their

words infuriated Wang Xin. He knew that Jiang Yingying's presence would create an uproar, but he did not expect it to be this bad. Almost every individual in the stadium was mocking Lingyun Martial Arts Academy.

“Master Wang, you've made a horrible decision. Not only have you embarrassed Lingyun Martial Arts Academy, but you've also embarrassed us. Don't assume that we'll stay in Lingyun Martial Arts Academy forever just because you're paying us to.”

“He's right. We don't want to be associated with something as humiliating as this.”

Not only were the outsiders disagreeing with Jiang Yingying's participation, but the students of Lingyun Martial Arts Academy, too, were voicing out their dissatisfaction. Furthermore, some were even targeting Wang Xin.

Wang Xin took in a deep breath and uttered, “If you don't want to stay, you can get lost now. I won't force you to stay here.”

Now that Wang Xin had a hundred million, he had more financial freedom to support the academy's operations. These people were only greedy for money, and they were not worthy for Wang Xin to keep them around.

“Wang Xin, you've said it yourself. Don't regret it.”

“Without us, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy is nothing.”

“Old man, do you think you can support the academy all by yourself?”

The few people growled harsh words at Wang Xin.

Wang Xin nodded without hesitation. “I, Wang Xin, will never regret this. If you think this is embarrassing, you can leave now.”

The few people shared a look. They did not expect that Wang Xin would be as firm as he was now. They were getting paid staying at Lingyun Martial Arts Academy, and there were no other

jobs as carefree as this one. Thus, they were actually unwilling to leave. Their words were only meant to dissuade Wang Xin from doing foolish things like this, but unexpectedly, Wang Xin was not threatened by them. Now, they were at a loss.

Meanwhile, the two opponents were already on stage. Jiang Yingying was up against a man with bulky muscles. At one glance, it seemed like Jiang Yingying would be the loser.

The man tightened his muscles and sneered at Jiang Yingying. “Babe, look at your thin arms and thin legs. Are you sure you want to fight with me? I’m afraid I might break your legs. And look at what a pretty face you have. It’ll be a pity.”

Coldness overtook Jiang Yingying’s face. She knew physical action was the best way to deal with mockery like his.

“Cut the nonsense. I need to go to the Youth Category competition after this. Let’s finish this quickly,” Jiang Yingying voiced.

“Haha. Do you think you can take part in another competition after fighting against me? I’d say you better ask Wang Xin to call an ambulance for you instead,” the man jeered.

Jiang Yingying shook her head, impatient. “If that’s the case, hurry up and scam off the stage.”

At that, Jiang Yingying strode toward him.

Everyone in the audience was waiting for Jiang Yingying to fall to the ground. They were sure that nothing surprising would happen. After all, what were her chances of winning as a woman against a towering, muscular man?

When Jiang Yingying lashed out a blow, they were skeptical of her moves. It looked as if she were just about to tickle her opponent. Even her opponent thought that, too.

However, just as the thought reared its head in his mind, Jiang Yingying’s punch had collided with the man’s chest.

With a muffled thump, the man howled in agony,

and his body flew out of the ring.

It was a one punch knockout.

Not only had she defeated her opponent, but she had even sent him flying out of the ring.

The entire stadium fell silent.

Jiang Yingying dusted her hands as if she had touched dirt on the man.

“You’re much lousier than Qi Hu,” Jiang Yingying remarked.

As the entire stadium remained silent for a full ten seconds, Jiang Yingying had already left the ring. It was only then the audience came back to their senses and gasped.

Almost everyone widened their eyes in disbelief at what they had just witnessed. Yet, the man was outside the ring, unconscious.

“H-How can she be so strong?”

“It took only one punch and she sent him flying!”

“Oh my god, how strong is she? Is she human?”

“I can’t believe Lingyun Martial Arts Academy has a student as powerful as she is!”

“He didn’t even have the chance to defend himself. Am I hallucinating this?”

A myriad of exclamations echoed in the stadium. At that moment, the atmosphere in the stadium changed. They once looked down on Jiang Yingying, but now they were overwhelmed in disbelief and shock. All Jiang Yingying needed was a punch to change everyone’s impression of her.

Dumbfounded, Wang Xin stared at Jiang Yingying, who was standing behind Han Jingru. Although he said nothing, he had similar thoughts as the rest of the audience. He, too, thought that Jiang Yingying was not worthy of participating in the Master Category initially and that it was a joke for her to appear in the ring.

However, reality had struck him hard. Not only was Jiang Yingying worthy of joining the competition, but she could also defeat her opponent with one punch. She had broken the record of how quickly a fight could end for the martial arts championship.

Unbeknownst to him, Wang Xin's hands started shaking. Back then, when he sensed the confidence Han Jingru had for Jiang Yingying, he thought that Han Jingru must have lost his mind. Now, he knew that Han Jingru's confidence was because the latter knew about Jiang Yingying's capabilities.

"I n-never t-thought that you're that remarkable," Wang Xin exclaimed.

The few people behind Wang Xin paled. A few minutes ago, they had just threatened Wang Xin with their departures because they did not want to be embarrassed by Jiang Yingying. Yet now, Jiang Yingying had defeated her opponent easily. Instead of embarrassing Lingyun Martial Arts Academy, Jiang Yingying had brought honor to it. The sudden turn of events made them wish the

ground would swallow them whole.

“Are you embarrassed? Now, do you know who are the ones to embarrass Lingyun Martial Arts Academy? Idiots. You can’t even join the competition, yet you’re here talking bad about Jiang Yingying,” Wang Xin reprimanded.

The men, who had been noisy earlier, were now quiet. They could not muster the courage to refute Wang Xin because they had just witnessed how powerful Jiang Yingying was. She had knocked out her opponent with just one punch, and this was something they could never dream of doing. Moreover, they knew that even if Jiang Yingying did not end up being the champion of the Master Category, this fight was more than enough to establish her reputation. It seemed like she really was the key to Lingyun Martial Arts Academy’s revival.

“Aren’t you too high profile?” Han Jingru smiled at Jiang Yingying. There was no hesitation in her punch, and the way she dealt with her opponent would soon attract the attention of everyone in Yan City’s martial arts world.

“He talked too much, so I couldn’t help it,” Jiang Yingying divulged.

Han Jingru flashed a helpless smile at her response. *Poor guy. He has to suffer a terrible consequences just for saying a few more words.*

A woman defeated him. I’m afraid the martial arts academy he’s in will tell him to leave immediately.

“Let’s go. You still have to participate in the Youth Category competition. Since you’ve registered for both, you might as well be the champion for both categories,” Han Jingru uttered.

Jiang Yingying nodded.

Just then, on the other side of the audience section, both Fang Zhantian and Lei Heming had similar grim looks.

Fang Zhantian knew that the members of the Apocalypse might be hidden within the audience, and Lei Heming needed to perform well to attract

their attention. He had not expected that before Lei Heming could fight, Jiang Yingying had already stolen the limelight.

“I didn’t think this woman can actually fight,” Fang Zhantian grounded out.

Jiang Yingying’s performance also stunned lei Heming, but he refused to bow down to a woman. He scoffed, “That’s because she hasn’t fought against me. If she does, the one to fly out of the ring will be her.”



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Lei Heming was partly boasting. Both Fang Zhantian and he knew that this was the Master Category. The ones who joined were excellent fighters. Although Lei Heming was strong, it was difficult for him to defeat his opponent with one punch. Thinking about it was easy, but Lei Heming did not know if he could actually do it.

“Her opponent underestimated her. That’s why he ended up like that. This doesn’t mean that she’s really as capable as the others think she is,” Fang Zhantian explained. It was partially self-consolation as he was now worried about Jiang Yingying’s fighting prowess as well as the chances of Lei Heming winning against her.

If Lei Heming lost, not only would he lose the opportunity to go to the Apocalypse, but he would even destroy Zhantian Martial Arts Academy’s reputation.

This was only the first round of the competition, but Jiang Yingying’s name had already been heard by almost everyone in Yan City’s martial arts world. Everyone was talking about her defeating her opponent in one move. Meanwhile,

Jiang Yingying cruised the Youth Category competition.

Every joke they made of her had turned themselves into the joke. However, the embarrassment did not deter them from looking forward to her next fight. They were now more eager to find out how mighty she was and how many rounds she could win under the Master Category.

A portion of the audience even started comparing Jiang Yingying with Lei Heming with some asserting that a fight between Jiang Yingying and Lei Heming would end in a draw. Of course, Lei Heming had many followers in Yan City's martial arts world, and his followers were sure that Jiang Yingying would lose to Lei Heming.

The preliminaries had just started, but the majority had already lost their interest. All they wanted to see now was a fight between Jiang Yingying and Lei Heming. To them, those two would be the only ones to fight for the championship.

The rules of the preliminaries were simple. Every participant who lost in the preliminaries would be removed from the championship. The only other person who showed near-complete dominance in the ring was Lei Heming.

The preliminaries lasted for three days. Every fight Jiang Yingying fought stunned the Yan City's martial arts world again and again. In fact, the ones who encountered Jiang Yingying as their opponent in the Youth Category automatically surrendered. After all, if she could have such outstanding results in the Master Category, how could the competitors of the Youth Category be a match for her?

Three days later, the list of participants for the championship was set. Jiang Yingying would be going up against Lei Heming for the championship.

There was no doubt that this would be the most eye-catching competition that everyone looked forward to.

This was the first time a woman had joined the

martial arts championship in the Master Category. Moreover, this woman had given the audience countless surprises, and she was now standing in the ring for the championship.

By now, Jiang Yingying had a group of fans of her own. Whenever she appeared, her fans would be cheering and screaming for her. It would not be an exaggeration to state that she was the celebrity of the martial arts world.

However, Jiang Yingying did not enjoy the feeling of being put on a pedestal. When her fans crowded outside of Han Residence, she felt frustrated.

“Yingying, you’re now someone’s idol. Aren’t you going out to meet your fans?” Han Jingru teased. The next day was the championship, and her fans had come to cheer her. It was a lively scene outside Han Residence, and her fans all wanted to catch a glimpse of her.

“Jingru, don’t tease me. How am I an idol?” Jiang Yingying groaned.

“How are you not an idol? You’re even better than the ones on television. You’re someone with true capabilities. You’re famous not because of your looks,” Han Jingru chuckled. There were many celebrities who flourished in the entertainment industry solely for their looks—they could neither sing nor act. Jiang Yingying had gained fame through her fighting capabilities, so she was much more accomplished than those celebrities.

“Jingru, what do I do now?” Jiang Yingying cast a look of helplessness at Han Jingru, hoping that he would save her. It was apparent that she really did not want to face this kind of situation.

“After the championship and dealing with Zhong family, we’ll leave Yan City. You don’t need to lose sleep over this,” Han Jingru reassured.

Jiang Yingying nodded. All she wanted to do now was to escape from this place—away from their blind worships.

At Zhong family’s house.

Zhong Mingguo was somber. Although Zhong Tianli had embarrassed the Zhong family twice, his grandson's failures would only make him angry. It did not cause him to be wary of Han Jingru's true capabilities.

But now, due to Jiang Yingying's exemplary performance at the martial arts championship, he had begun to take the matter seriously. The Zhong family dared not dismiss the fact that Han Jingru had a subordinate this strong. After all, while money was important, sometimes physical power was the key to success.

If the Zhong family could not find someone who could go against Jiang Yingying, the Zhong family would be in imminent danger.

Zhong Mingguo could no longer rely on Zhong Tianli, so he placed all his hopes on Zhong Tianyi. He hoped that his other grandson would be able to think of a plan to deal with this.

"Ask Tianyi to come to my study room," Zhong Mingguo instructed his bodyguard.

The bodyguard nodded and left the room.

A few minutes later, Zhong Tianyi arrived in the study room.

When he saw the solemn demeanor Zhong Mingguo had, he could not help but smile.

“Grandpa, you can’t be worried about that Jiang Yingying, can you?”

“Everyone saw her as a joke, but she has proven to be no weakling. Moreover, she’s one of Han Jingru’s men. How can I not be worried about this?” Zhong Mingguo mumbled.

“Grandpa, what if I tell you that she’s just a clown? Will you still be worried?” Zhong Tianyi suggested.

“Do you have a plan?” Zhong Mingguo queried.

“Of course. I’ve already hired an elite fighter, and Jiang Yingying is just a small fry before him,” Zhong Tianyi answered.

Upon hearing his words, Zhong Mingguo’s mood

instantly improved. *anyi*.

“Tianyi, you’ve never disappointed me,” Zhong Mingguo praised with a smile.

“Grandpa, I’m the future head of the Zhong family. Naturally, I have to take everything seriously. Do you really think I’d leave something as important as this to Zhong Tianli? A moron like him can only eat and sleep. Is there anything proper he can do?” Zhong Tianyi huffed.

Although both were his grandson, Zhong Mingguo’s favor of Zhong Tianyi was unmistakable. Instead of defending his other grandson, he nodded in agreement. “No one in the Zhong family is as competent as you. I’m glad the Zhong family has you, or else we’re doomed.”

“Right.” Suddenly, Zhong Mingguo frowned and reminded, “If Jiang Yingying is that remarkable, Han Jingru must be, too. You have to be careful.”

Zhong Tianyi laughed boisterously. *What is Han Jingru but a half-wit? He’s not worth my worry.*

“Grandpa, I’ll be honest with you. Yan Qiong isn’t even a match for the elite fighter I’ve hired. He used to have a reputation that surpasses Yan Qiong’s in Yan City,” Zhong Tianyi disclosed.

His words piqued Zhong Mingguo’s curiosity. Yan Qiong had been the ultimate killing machine during Han Xiuzhi’s prime period. *Who’s even more famous than Yan Qiong back then?*

“Grandpa, you know him too,” Zhong Tianyi continued.

“Who is it?” Zhong Mingguo couldn’t contain his curiosity.

With a grin, Zhong Tianyi remained silent. The suspense made Zhong Mingguo uncomfortable as he repeated, “Who is it? Tell me quickly. Why are you keeping me in suspense?”

“Chen Bao,” Zhong Tianyi made known.

“C-Chen Bao?” Initially, Zhong Mingguo had a

doubtful look. Slowly, his eyes widened. In disbelief, he uttered, “Chen Bao. Do you mean the man who founded the Martial Arts Association? Chen Bao?”

“That’s right.” Zhong Tianyi nodded.

The reason why Yan City’s Martial Arts Association had its glorious reputation was all thanks to Chen Bao.

Back then, when Chen Bao founded the Martial Arts Association, he had shone light onto the Martial Arts Association all by himself. He was the one who made the public realize the grandeur of martial arts. Furthermore, everyone saw him as the top martial arts fighter in Yan City. Even Yan Qiong was respectful toward him.

However, he had grown old, and there was no news of him after his retirement from Yan City. *Why is he back so suddenly?*

“If I’m not mistaken, he should be older than Yan Qiong. Are you sure that he’s that good?”

Although Zhong Mingguo was taken aback when he heard Chen Bao’s name, he could still think rationally. *Surely, his skills and power would have faced some regression, seeing as he’s aged. He can’t be as great as he was in his younger days, can he?*

“I thought so too, but let me tell you, Chen Bao will only become stronger,” Zhong Tianyi affirmed.

Seeing how firm and confident Zhong Tianyi was, Zhong Mingguo dropped his suspicions on Chen Bao’s capability. He could not understand why would a man like him would return to Yan City.

“How did you find him? What would’ve caused him to return to Yan City willingly?” Zhong Mingguo was curious.

“The Martial Arts Association established by Chen Bao single-handedly has turned into a robbers’ den. Each meeting had been associated

with dodgy activities and there was too much hanky-panky going on. Chen Bao could no longer tolerate it. He wanted to take back his position as the president so that he could rebuild the association. As for me, I'll support him financially," Zhong Tianyi explained.

As a businessman, Zhong Mingguo understood perfectly well the benefits that one could reap from this.

With the return of Chen Bao, along with his intention to be the president of the association, we'll certainly be able to kill two birds with one stone, when coupled with our financial support. The backing of the association will, in turn, help the Zhong family in its further development.

"Tianyi, you haven't let me down. Once we're associated with them, no one else will dare to offend us." Zhong Mingguo was thrilled.

Zhong Tianyi expected such a reaction from Zhong Mingguo. *Chen Bao's presence is enough to shake the entire martial arts community in Yan City. In addition to that, endless benefits will befall the Zhong family.*

“Quick, bring me to Chen Bao. It’s rude for the head of the house to delay a meeting with him,” urged Zhong Mingguo.

Zhong Tianyi shook his head. “Grandpa, he doesn’t want to see anyone now. His behavior is rather weird.”

“I see, it’s understandable for a high-level master like him to have some strange antics.” Zhong Mingguo nodded.

“If there’s nothing else, Grandpa, I’ll get going. I need to go over tomorrow’s arrangement with him.”

“Sure, you go ahead. Send my best regards to Chen Bao.”

“Alright, Grandpa.”

Upon leaving the Zhong residence, Zhong Tianyi headed to Chen Bao’s hotel.

At a glance, Chen Bao looked like any other village old man, dressed in simple clothes. No one would have been able to guess that he was once the best in martial arts, in Yan City.

Had it not been for Zhong Tianyi who knew his real identity, he would be easily regarded as just another senior citizen in public.

“Tomorrow is the championship. Are you not going to show up?” Zhong Tianyi asked Chen Bao in the hotel room.

With a head full of gray hair, Chen Bao no longer appeared high-spirited and vigorous, as he had once been. Nonetheless, his gaze was still sharp and intimidating, causing Zhong Tianyi to avoid eye contact with him.

“It’s not an authentic championship anymore. You’ll only be able to see a bunch of ignorant and pretentious people making a fool out of themselves. How embarrassing!” Chen Bao scoffed.

“Without you, the Martial Arts Association is

nothing. However, I believe that once you step in, you'll be able to restore the association to its former glory," Zhong Tianyi announced confidently.

"I heard that there's going to be a female participant in the championship?" Chen Bao asked.

"That's right, she's quite an amazing one too," Zhong Tianyi affirmed.

"Useless..." Chen Bao was upset. "Martial arts is for the world of men. How could they allow a woman to enter the championship ring? What a shame!"

Evidently, the tips of patriarchal thinking were deeply rooted in Chen Bao. In his perspective, women had ought to be active domestically and not in the championship ring. *It's not that she's any good! Rather, the standards of martial arts in Yan City have deteriorated. It's up to the point where men are unable to even defeat a woman!*

"I'm not certain about this matter either. Perhaps,

you'll be able to find out more tomorrow," Zhong Tianyi uttered admittedly.

"I'll be looking forward to witnessing her capabilities. If she uses any backdoor methods to try to make a name for herself, I want her dead in the ring tomorrow. This includes all those who are involved in this matter." Chen Bao was cold and determined.

Zhong Tianyi shuddered. These are some very scary words. He wants no one spared? I'm afraid there will be an uproar in Yan City.

Then again, even if mayhem breaks out, Chen Bao can easily work his influence to settle everything peacefully.

After all, he is the man who had first established the Martial Arts Association. Hence, he would surely possess the full rights to clean it up now.

The following day, the championship venue was packed with an audience, hailing from both near and far. Those without a ticket and those who not qualified to enter either were also found waiting

outside the stadium. It was unprecedented for a woman to enter the martial arts championship, hence, many of Jiang Yingying's fans, as well as the general public, wanted to see her in action so badly.

When a Bentley pulled over in the special passage, everyone tried to peep through the window to catch a glance at how Jiang Yingying looked like.

When she got out of the car in her costume, everyone gasped in disbelief. She looked frail and petite. *How has a woman like her made it all the way to the championship round?*

“Jiang Yingying, I love you.”

“Marry me, Jiang Yingying, I need your protection.”

“You're my idol. Can I take a photo with you? I'll do anything for you.”

Her fans went into a frenzy with loud cheers and deafening screams. It was a very chaotic scene;

one that required additional security guards to keep an eye on the crazy crowd.

Upon witnessing this, Chen Bao's expression dimmed. *The Martial Arts Championship is something that has to be treated with utmost respect and solemnity. What's happening now is no different from a fan meet with a celebrity!*

“Anyone who insults martial arts will be damned,” he uttered through gritted teeth.

“This kind of woman is a typical black sheep, amongst the martial arts practitioners,” Zhong Tianyi added fuel to the fire. He could not wait to get rid of Jiang Yingying.

Others who also despised her included Fang Zhantian and Lei Heming.

In the past, the same, passionate response was exclusive, solely for the popular Lei Heming. *Now, he had completely lost to Jiang Yingying.*

“You don't need to be disheartened. Once she's

removed today, everyone will accept you as their super idol again,” Fang Zhantian tried to encourage him.

Lei Heming nodded. Jiang Yingying had shown herself strong in the eliminating rounds. Nonetheless, he did not take her seriously. As an opponent of hers, Lei Heming believed that she was still out of his league.

As long as I beat the crap out of her in the championship, her followers will come to know how foolish they are to admire her.

Lei Heming would not be satisfied by merely defeating her. Rather, his real intent was to kill her, in order to release his anger.

“Wang Xin, have you prepared a coffin for that woman?” Fang Zhantian asked out of the blue when Wang Xin walked past him.

Wang Xin had become rather pompous recently. With Jiang Yingying’s rising popularity, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy had gradually gained its fame. Within two days, the number of its

disciples increased by multiple folds.

“Fang Zhantian, you know Jiang Yingying’s capability very well. I think that you should remind Lei Heming to be extra cautious. Otherwise, it will be extremely embarrassing for him, losing to a woman,” Wang Xin put forth a warning.

Fang Zhantian clenched his fist, as he was utterly annoyed at Wang Xin, who had found a way to revive Lingyun Martial Arts Academy when it was set to shut down. Hearing Wang Xin’s jeers, Fang Zhantian wanted to destroy him so badly at that moment.

“I never thought that you would put all of your hopes and dreams on the shoulders of one woman. What a joke! Do you know what’s funnier? The fact that you think that she can actually defeat Lei Heming,” Fang Zhantian uttered scornfully.

“There’s only one way to find out whether it’s a joke or not. Stay calm and enjoy the show,” Wang Xin announced casually.

“Yingying, Lei Heming is stronger than all of your previous opponents. Don’t underestimate him and pay extra attention when you’re in the ring,” Han Jingru reminded Jiang Yingying.

He was not worried that she would lose the championship. Neither would he blame her if she lost to a better opponent. Han Jingru was merely afraid that Jiang Yingying would let her guard down, especially after she had gone through a few smooth-sailing rounds. *If her alertness decreases, Lei Heming will be granted a loophole to attack her.*

More importantly, Lei Heming had a murderous intent toward Jiang Yingying. *If she begins to take it lightly, the consequences will be unbearable.*

Jiang Yingying nodded. “Jingru, rest assured that I’ll take this championship seriously. I won’t disappoint you.”

“It doesn’t matter if you win or lose, I just don’t want you to get hurt.” Han Jingru smiled. *It’s already very impressive for Jiang Yingying to have reached the final round, due to her minimal combat experience. Her main strength is her suppression skill. However, if she is unable to appl*

y that effectively on Lei Heming, she will lose an edge to compete.

“I won’t be defeated.” Jiang Yingying’s eyes were blazing with certainty. *When did the bashful girl suddenly become a tough cookie?*

Han Jingru witnessed the transformation in her, from the girl who kept silent when she was being bullied in Rong City, to the warrior-like figure that she was today. *Jiang Yingying is one who will bulldoze through all challenges, for the mere sake of achieving her goals.*

At long last, it was time to rumble.

Walking toward the ring, Jiang Yingying and Lei Heming’s fans were rooting for them enthusiastically. The resounding cheers of their names ricocheted around the stadium.

No one expected Jiang Yingying to have won the hearts of the multitudes, especially within such a short period of time. Comparatively, Lei Heming, who had been active in the martial arts world for a few years, was only as popular as her.

Lei Heming was enraged by the lack of response on his side. He had spent years, building up his reputation, whereas Jiang Yingying only took several days.

“Savor all the support that you can get now because they’ll be gone soon.” He glared daggers at her, looking as though he was ready to tear her apart.

On the contrary, Jiang Yingying was very composed. “This has exceeded my imagination too. Seeing what you’ve achieved after toiling for years, well, I have done it in several days. Perhaps you enjoy the admiration of the audience, but I don’t. I only care about defeating my opponent.”

Her clever statement put him on the spot as she had clearly drawn the line between them both.

“Seize the opportunity to utter a few more words, will you? When the championship begins, I’m afraid that you’ll lose the ability to talk forever,” Lei Heming threatened her coldly.

Other than the roaring fans, there were two calm souls, sitting quietly in the audience. Their lips curled up into half-smiles.

“Han Jingru has surprised me yet again. His servant is rather impressive too!” Mr. Yi would not miss a sensational championship for anything. Lately, he had seen how Jiang Yingying worked her way into the final round. Hence, he was dazzled by her skills.

“She’s got what it takes to enter Apocalypse. Since Han Jingru requires an assistant, we can use this opportunity to make it happen,” Fang Zhan suggested.

Mr. Yi smiled as he concurred with him. *Jiang Yingying is still young and full of potential. Putting her in Apocalypse, to receive more advanced training will definitely mold her into becoming the next core member of Apocalypse.*

“Too bad for Lei Heming. He was also shortlisted, but he came second after her,” Mr. Yi stated.

Fang Zhan shook his head. *Lei Heming could have entered Apocalypse too, if not for his overbearing vanity and obsession with the nightlife. He would not be able to fit in, at Apocalypse and that's the main reason that he was denied the chance.*

“Here you go again, beating around the bush, Mr. Yi. You should say that he's a scumbag who simply did not meet the criteria to enter Apocalypse,” Fang Zhan uttered bluntly.

“Let's save that young fellow some face. It's understandable that he has a messed up, private life at this age, albeit his achievements,” Mr. Yi shared his opinion.

Fang Zhan was taken aback for a moment. He could not believe his ears. *A character like Lei Heming is certainly unqualified to join Apocalypse, especially since it has very strict rules.*

“Mr. Yi, are you thinking of letting him in?” Fang Zhan could not contain his curiosity.

“Definitely not. It’s starting now. Let’s focus on the match,” Mr. Yi responded casually.

Thinking through all that Mr. Yi had said, it seemed as though Mr. Yi had thought out a special plan for Lei Heming. Yet, Fang Zhan found that he was unable to figure out what it could be.

With a blow of the whistle, the referee officiated the long-awaited championship.

The fans of the duo fixed their gazes on the ring with bated breaths, hoping that the one whom they supported would win.

At that moment, the stadium was experiencing a pin-drop silence. This only served to demonstrate the significance of the championship, to the audience.

Lei Heming was indeed a new star, in the Yan City martial arts world. His strength was leagues ahead, in comparison to all of Jiang Yingying’s previous opponents. When he asserted force on her, it was evident that she had to defend herself

with her entire body.

As Han Jingru had previously forecasted, when all else was equal, Lei Heming's comparatively richer combat experience had given him an advantage over Jiang Yingying.

After about ten moves, she was seen to be the weaker opponent. Though she had demonstrated amazing strength, Lei Heming's dodging speed was beyond her control and prediction. As a consequence, Jiang Yingying began to feel rather helpless.

"A piece of trash like you is allowed to step foot on the championship ring? Did you buy off all of your previous opponents?" Suppressing her with his experience, Lei Heming deliberately tried to distract her too, with various taunts. He hoped that she would expose more of her weaknesses, upon hearing his words.

Battling with Jiang Yingying, Lei Heming soon experienced her power and capability first-hand. Hence, he realized that she was indeed a strong fighter.

He started to grow worried, thinking that he would lose to a woman, meaning that he would suffer from extreme shame. Hence, he planned to break her mental strength, in order to gain a greater advantage.

Upon being dissed and humiliated, Jiang Yingying grew infuriated, causing her to throw a hard punch at him.

Seeing his contemptuous remarks taking their effect on her, Lei Heming smirked. *This woman isn't very stable emotionally, and consequently, she has revealed many of her flaws, through one blind, impulsive punch.*

“Idiot, you’ve been fooled.” He tilted his head to avoid a violent blow, as he soon thrust his knee into her abdomen.

Upon impact, Jiang Yingying was pushed back to the ropes. Within the blink of an eye, Lei Heming threw a second punch at her.

She stretched out her right hand to resist the punch, but he was too fast and a harsh blow

struck her on the chest.

“It feels good. If you weren’t my opponent, we might have had a chance to continue this in bed. Unfortunately, you’re going to die in this ring today.” An evil glance flashed through his eyes. Lei Heming was not willing to give her any breathers. He jumped up and was ready to lunge at her. *One more bash on the head and she’ll be dead, or rather, paralyzed for life.*

Jiang Yingying felt despair and hopelessness. She was unable to withstand Lei Heming’s malicious provocation, and hence, she accidentally revealed her weaknesses.



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Just as Lei Heming was feeling proud of his executed plan, he felt a strong resistance against his leg in mid-air.

Han Jingru appeared out of nowhere and stood next to Jiang Yingying. Almost instantly, he blocked Lei Heming's fatal blow with his arm.

Han Jingru glanced at Jiang Yingying and sighed. *She's only an inexperienced young girl. Her mental strength isn't firm enough to ignore Lei Heming's provocations.* Had it not been for Han Jingru, Jiang Yingying would either be dead or suffering from severe brain damage right now.

“Han Jingru, what are you doing!” Lei Heming yelled through his gritted teeth. *How can he barge into the ring, right in the middle of a championship?*

“Han Jingru, are you aware of the consequences that arise from breaking the rules?” Fang Zhantian roared from the audience seat. *Jiang Yingying should have been dead by now. Unfortunately, she was saved by Han Jingru!*

“Rules? In my presence, I am the rules,” Han Jingru declared.

His statement caused everyone in the stadium to gasp, their eyes bulging incredulously.

This championship was organized by the Martial Arts Association in Yan City! Nonetheless, he has just proclaimed that he is the rule here. Isn't that a blatant insult to the association?

In a cold tone, Lei Heming asked, “Don't brag, Han Jingru. Are you openly challenging the Martial Arts Association?”

Finishing his question, the new martial arts star soon found that he was thrown out of the ring by a powerful kick from Han Jingru.

Everyone was stupefied once more, at Han Jingru's ability to send someone flying, meters away, with a single move.

“If you think that I've broken the rules, I'll invite you to step forward and challenge me. If I lose, however, I'll go by your rules! If you lose, I'll

make the rules.” Han Jingru propped Jiang Yingying up.

She lowered her head as she was embarrassed to face Han Jingru, upon losing to Lei Heming.

Moreover, with him standing up for her, going against the entire Martial Arts Association, he would certainly bring trouble upon himself.

“Han Jingru, you’re being too rude! Let me teach you a lesson today.”

“You’re rather naive, young man. I see that you have dared to challenge the Martial Arts Association. Have you not tasted death?”

“The Han family has collapsed in a shameful manner. An insignificant character like you, is unaware of how to keep a low profile? Be prepared to die in this ring today.”

Dissatisfied with Han Jingru, several people stood up, with ferocious looks on their faces. They did not plan to let him go so easily.

These few people were relatively good in their skills. They were somewhat famous, in the martial arts world in Yan City. Such characters would undeniably add excitement to the championship.

The average audience no longer cared about the final results of the championship. They now looked forward to witnessing an ad-hoc battle amongst the best of the best.

“Go and get some rest,” Han Jingru instructed Jiang Yingying.

With a heavy heart, she left the ring quietly, wishing that she could turn back time, undoing her mistakes.

Han Jingru fixed himself and glared at the few who had accepted his challenge. “To save time, you guys can all come up all at once.”

“You...”

“Don’t get too full of yourself.”

“A useless piece of trash like you has no place in the martial arts world.”

While those few were enraged by Han Jingru, the majority of the audience, on the other hand, cheered him on. His pride and assertiveness had seemingly ignited their passion.

It was an unprecedented thing to single-handedly challenge the entire Martial Arts Association. No one had ever dreamt of that, let alone made it happen.

“If this stage is too small, I can come down to play with you.” Han Jingru jumped out of the ring, soon landing on the floor.

Being individuals who were above-average in martial arts, the five challengers were infuriated, having been disrespected and humiliated in public by Han Jingru.

“We shall fulfill your death wish.”

“Let’s go get this arrogant dude.”

“You’ll regret your decision in hell.”

Collaborating with one another, five forces soon ambushed him, all together. Many thought that Han Jingru would fail to survive the siege.

Watching the fight, Mr. Yi was exceptionally calm. He did not have a slight bit of worry for Han Jingru. *He had forced Fang Zhan to use his Palm Sword in defense! How can such small characters ever be his opponents? However, by doing so, he’s going to be wreaking havoc, in the world of martial arts.*

“Mr. Yi, don’t you think that he’s being a little over the top?” Fang Zhan asked.

“In my opinion, he had done this deliberately as a warning, to those who would dare to oppose the Han family. This fellow always has very thorough planning, in all that he does. He has probably calculated all the risks and benefits involved. I think that apart from the both of us, everyone else in the stadium has been fooled by him.” A thin smile settled on Mr. Yi’s face.

Taking a deep breath, Fang Zhan announced, “He has amazing strength and he’s impeccably shrewd. It seems that Lin Tong has no chance at attacking at him at all.”

Faced with five aggressive attackers, Han Jingru’s muscles tensed up, while his bloodshot eyes were as watchful as ever.

First move!

Second move!

Third move!

He never once retreated. Instead, he became braver as he fought. The audience watched on, in amazement.

The five, persistent men were a step away from becoming Yan City’s top masters. Unfortunately, even with their powers combined, they could not suppress Han Jingru and his excellent skills.

“Why is he so outstanding?” Zhong Tianyi spat out in anger. *If we don’t get rid of Han Jingru today, he will become a greater threat to the Zhong family.*

“He’s not exceptionally good, but there are seemingly too many useless bums, in the world of martial arts nowadays.” Chen Bao’s lips curled up in disdain. According to his standards, the Martial Arts Association had gone downhill, rather steadily. *Those five who are regarded as top masters would not have even stood a chance to get on stage, back then. This is utter nonsense!*

Zhong Tianyi felt much better, upon hearing Chen Bao’s remarks. *If he can kill Han Jingru, there won’t be any existing threats, moving forward.*

One by one, the top five masters lost to Han Jingru. When the last master collapsed on the ground, the whole stadium dropped into an eerie silence. Everyone was astounded, as they froze in disbelief.

The world of martial arts was silenced by one man.

“Anyone else?” Han Jingru asked, as his question

echoed in the stadium.

After beating up the top five masters, he still wants to challenge the others? Does he want the association to close its doors?

Fang Zhantian was breathing heavily. He never expected Han Jingru to have won so easily. *This is something that even Lei Heming can't do.*

It's no surprise that he could effortlessly block Lei Heming's fatal blow, without exercising any force. If Han Jingru hadn't gone to Yun City, there would be no place for Lei Heming in Yan City at all.

As for Wang Xin, he was still dazed, as his expression went completely blank.

Didn't Nangong Shuxian label the young master of the Han family as good-for-nothing? How did he become so great?

Was Han Yu merely a mask for him? Is Han Jingru the true wild card, hidden by Nangong Shuxian?

Wang Xin mumbled, “The martial arts world in Yan City hasn’t been so lively for ages. Since Chen Bao left, no one was influential enough to bring everyone together.”

During Chen Bao’s era, there were often new martial arts stars, appearing in the scene. At that time, the Martial Arts Association had very strict selection criteria. Only those who met Chen Bao’s benchmarks could enter. as members of the association.

As a result, many people had trained excessively, to gain his recognition. Sadly, the standards dropped significantly after his exit, giving birth to a generation of many inferior members.

Suddenly, Wang Xin took notice of a certain grey-haired man. He was making his way toward Han Jingru.

“Chen Bao! It’s Chen Bao!” Wang Xin was petrified when he recognized who it was.

Chen Bao had disappeared for many years, meaning that he was not known widely. However, those around Wang Xin's age were highly unlikely to have forgotten him.

Hence, when he showed up, Wang Xin and a few others immediately recognized the founder of the Martial Arts Association.

“It's Chen Bao. He's back!”

“I never thought that I'd be able to see this legend again in my lifetime. Rumor has it that he has disappeared for many years, to pursue an ideal world of martial arts. Why is he back here now?”

The so-called ideal world of martial arts was truthfully Apocalypse. Chen Bao had been pursuing the Apocalypse for so many years, with a strong desire to meet other powerful masters.

“He's here too? This is getting interesting.” Mr. Yi's mouth quirked up. *Han Jingru treats the entire martial arts field as if it is his stepping stone in pushing the Han family back to its pinnacle in Yan City. The return of Chen Bao might just help him, in completing his plan perfectly.*

If the founder of the association were defeated by Han Jingru, who else would have the courage to despise the Han family?

“Mr. Yi, I heard that Chen Bao wanted to join Apocalypse. If he’s so good, why didn’t Apocalypse consider him?” Fang Zhan questioned.

“Apocalypse did invite him once, but he had merely chosen to reject the opportunity. Do you think that they would give him a second chance in that circumstance?” Mr. Yi asked. *Back then, Chen Bao was young. He didn’t take Apocalypse seriously and he also couldn’t give up the worldly privileges for it.*

Whatever the reason might be, once the offer was turned down, Apocalypse would not extend a second one. Hence, his pursuit over the years was merely in vain.

The current president of the association jogged over to Chen Bao’s side, the moment he saw him.

Although he was positioned to be the highest in authority now, he dared not disrespect the founder of the association.

“Hi Mr. Chen, I didn’t expect this pleasure of having you here, gracing our championship today.” The president bowed his head.

“Neither did I expect to see the association being run by a group of incompetent people,” Chen Bao sneered.

The president was shocked to his core. *Indeed, there’s a huge difference in terms of how the Martial Arts Association operates, back then and now. With the advancements in society, we have no other alternative but to make changes within the association. We had to maintain steady, incoming financial support in order to keep it running.*

“Who is this man that the president has bowed to?”

“Is the old man some kind of a hidden master?”

“What hidden master? I think that he looks like one who is about to kick the bucket anytime.”

Chen Bao soon became the subject of gossip. Surely, the younger generations would not have known much about him.

A senior citizen rose up from his seat. Overwhelmed, he shouted at the youngsters, “What do you know? This is Chen Bao, the founder of the Martial Arts Association. Have you not heard of his name?”

His statement took over all of the conversations in the stadium, as everyone was surprised at such a revelation.

The founder was deemed as a legend. Hence, it is rather unsurprising that the president has revered him so much.

“Oh no, is Han Jingru going to die in his hands?”

“Chen Bao is a real master. Han Jingru is incomparable to him! He will soon pay a big price for his arrogance.”

“Who is Han Jingru in front of Chen Bao? Wow, I didn’t expect to see him, appearing here today.”

The audience immediately shifted their stance, as though they were merely changing clothes. Prior to this, they were rooting for Han Jingru. They saw him as someone who was worthy of their expectations. Now, they hoped that he would be defeated by Chen Bao.

“You’re very courageous, but you’ll die very soon. This is the price that you’ll have to pay for being impudent.” Chen Bao berated Han Jingru.

His words gave the president some comfort. He was relieved that Chen Bao would take an action against Han Jingru, saving the association some face.

It would be an utter embarrassment if no one had turned the tables over, suppressing Han Jingru.

“Old man, are you looking forward to hell? I advise you to leave now, while you still have a few years left to live.” Han Jingru uttered casually. Since he had decided to make it to the

top, he had no reservations in giving it his best shot. Seeing that the Han family no longer existed in Yan City, he would ensure that the family name would stand, for generations to come.

Chen Bao furrowed his brows. *Are the youngsters really that insolent nowadays?*

“Since you have a strong desire to die, I’ll grant you your wish.” Then, Chen Bao strode across to the ring.

Many years had passed since he had last stood in a battle ring. Nevertheless, he was not excited to return to one. The worldly fights had become dull and mundane to him, and Han Jingru was nothing but a mere speck in his eyes.

He had regretted his decision, many times, in having turned down Apocalypse. That place was where all the real martial arts masters had gathered and trained. It was a pity that he would never get a chance to see it in his lifetime.

Just as Han Jingru was about to walk to the ring,

someone grabbed his hand suddenly.

He turned and was met by Wang Xin and his anxious gaze.

“Master Wang, what are you doing?” Han Jingru narrowed his eyes.

“Don’t go for it.” Wang Xin risked his life to warn Han Jingru. If he were seen by Chen Bao, his life would be made miserable. However, he could not stay still, simply allowing Han Jingru to sacrifice himself.

It’s Chen Bao who we’re talking about, the legendary master in Yan City whom no one has ever defeated. Though Han Jingru is very skillful and has beaten five, above-average, members of the Martial Arts Association, none of those masters are comparable to Chen Bao.

“Do you think that I’ll lose to him?” Han Jingru smiled.

Seeing that he was not nervous at all, Wang Xin was rendered speechless. *He might have a good chance at winning the match if his opponent was someone else. Who can ch*

ange the ending, when it is Chen Bao, who wants him dead?

“Yan Qiong was well aware of how powerful Chen Bao was! He had even feared him. Leave now, Han Jingru. Losing your face is better than losing your life,” Wang Xin persuaded him earnestly.

Han Jingru was not made aware of what happened in the past, as he hardly followed the updates about martial arts. One thing that surprised him was that Yan Qiong had actually feared Chen Bao.

If this had happened years ago, Han Jingru would have heeded his advice and left right away.

Now, his skills and strength were well above those of Yan Qiong. When faced with Chen Bao, he should not have had any reason to back down.

“No matter how great Grandpa Yan was, he can’t beat me now,” Han Jingru muttered.

With one hand still grabbing his, Wang Xin was

stunned for a moment. As much as he wanted to believe that Han Jingru had solid skills to win this fight, many outsiders including himself still kept the stereotypical impression of him being a lousy scumbag.*sed him so much?*

“He’s Chen Bao after all! Are you sure that you want to do this?” Wang Xin asked again.

Pushing his hand aside, Han Jingru told him, “Go back to your seat and watch carefully. Observe how I’ll end Chen Bao’s era completely.”

The end of a legend?

Subconsciously, Wang Xin swallowed a lump of saliva.*Does this mean that he’s going to kill Chen Bao?*

It was an unbearable thought. No one in the martial arts world would ever allow it to cross their minds.

“This dude... Is he insane?” Wang Xin shuddered.

Han Jingru clasped his hands behind his back

while Chen Bao stood upright, projecting a superior demeanor. None of them showed a slight aura of having been oppressed by the other.

“Since we’re here, shall we sign a life and death agreement?” Han Jingru posted the question to Chen Bao.

This came as a massive shock to everyone watching.

It is evident that Chen Bao is unwilling to go easy on Han Jingru? Nevertheless, is he mad? Why initiate a life and death agreement? Isn't that just changing a method to commit suicide?

“A life and death agreement? What is he thinking?”

“Is he out of his mind?”

“He is probably trying to dramatize it since he knows that his death is near.”

Signing the life and death agreement would clearly differentiate the winner and the loser, as well as the living and the dead. Han Jingru's move was something that was simply not understood by others. He seemed to have pushed himself into a desperate situation. Seeing all this, happening in the stadium, Mr. Yi furrowed his brows.

He was very certain that if Han Jingru did not have the confidence to defeat Chen Bao, he would not have suggested such an agreement. *Based on his previous battle with Fang Zhan, he surely has the upper hand. Seeing as such, why does he want to kill Chen Bao?*

Han Jingru could easily make use of either the Martial Arts Association or Chen Bao, as his springboard to elevate the status of the Han family in Yan City. Given the two options, is killing Chen Bao necessary?

“Fang Zhan, I think that it's time for you to lend a hand,” Mr. Yi urged.

“Mr. Yi, are you worried that Han Jingru will lose

to Chen Bao?” Fang Zhan was rather confused. From his perspective, there was no problem for Han Jingru to tackle Chen Bao single-handedly. His capability had far exceeded those in the secular world as well as those in Apocalypse.

“I’m asking you to save Chen Bao, not Han Jingru,” Mr. Yi stated.

“Huh, why?” Fang Zhan asked, baffled.

Mr. Yi sighed. “Chen Bao has devoted his whole life to martial arts and he doesn’t deserve to die a miserable death. I hope that his life is spared.”

It took one martial arts master to appreciate the work of another. Fang Zhan understood that Mr. Yi had compassion for Fang Zhan. Hence, he agreed to help him out.

“It’s such a shame that he’d turned down the offer of joining Apocalypse. If he hadn’t he would be far greater than what he’d envisioned himself to be,” Fang Zhan uttered.

Upon signing the life and death agreement, the

two men started exchanging moves.

Chen Bao once represented the pinnacle of the martial arts world in Yan City. No man had the guts to take him lightly, as his status was equivalent to that of big shots in the city.

Up to this very day, his greatness was unsurpassed in Yan City.

Unfortunately, he met Han Jingru, a man who Mr. Yi held high esteem for.

Han Jingru's future was beyond Mr. Yi's imagination.

Going up against him, how will Chen Bao fare, being his opponent?

In the eyes of the majority, Han Jingru would probably be defeated soon. After all, no one had surpassed Chen Bao's attainments, along with his years of track records. A newbie like Han Jingru was deemed to have a serious disadvantage, in terms of experience gap and strength disparity.

Chen Bao felt that way too. He had already crafted an ending for Han Jingru in his heart. He was determined to beat him to death in the ring.

However, the longer they fought, the more worried Chen Bao became. The reality was rather different from what he expected. The young man before him seemed to be able to withstand all of his blows. He had even returned every single one of them. Seemingly, he did not have a unique advantage.

How is this even possible?

Although he was reluctant to admit it, Chen Bao was astonished to discover that Han Jingru was not any weaker than him.

Did my ability regress?

Chen Bao reflected on this silently. He did not think that Han Jingru would have such a strong profile, at a young age. Hence, he suspected that his skills must have regressed.

Comparing his skills to when he was about Han

Jingru's age, Chen Bao would not have achieved the same level of greatness either.

"I've seen you before," Chen Bao uttered unexpectedly.

Frowning in response, Han Jingru chose to remain silent.

"I'd met you at the Han Residence when Nangong Shuxian invited me over to discuss how the Martial Arts Association could assist the Han family. I had even asked her about you."

"Do you want to know what she had said about you?"

Han Jingru ignored him. He did not want to spend time, thinking about Chen Bao's agenda behind such small talk. He tried to remain as focused and as unaffected as he could, mentally.

"She criticized you, on how useless you were and she lamented on how much she had wanted you gone! She had said that you were the bane of her existence, as well as to the entire Han family."

Han Jingru's expression was as icy as ever. He did not need a third party to remind him how Nangong Shuxian had treated him. Those words uttered were etched in his mind and heart deeper than anyone else could imagine.

“If your tactic is to affect me with your words, you can save it. It won't work on me,” Han Jingru rebutted indifferently.

Chen Bao shook his head. “I'm just curious. How did a worthless person like you become so good? Did you have any special encounters?”

“Ask Hades when you're in hell! He might have the answer you're looking for,” Han Jingru retorted.

During the conversation, Han Jingru had successfully suppressed Chen Bao by almost driving him to the edge of the ring.

The scene caught everyone off guard, as no one dared to make a sound.

A few minutes ago, they were confident that Han

Jingru would lose. To everyone's surprise, he had turned out to have the upper hand.

Zhong Tianyi grimaced at the sight. Chen Bao was his only trump card left to compete against the Han family. If he lost, Zhong Tianyi would lose the game completely.

“This isn't possible. How can he be so good? He's up against Chen Bao, who's number one in Yan City!” Zhong Tianyi could not accept the fact, as he soon wished that all the fighters could flood the ring immediately, to besiege and attack Han Jingru.

He was willing to pay any price to have Han Jingru killed on the spot. This was because he knew what would become of the Zhong family, once Han Jingru won.

Alas, Zhong Tianyi's dream was shattered. He could not do anything to change the results of the fight.

Fang Zhantian and Lei Heming stood still too, seemingly immersed in shock.

Being a rising star in the martial arts world, Lei Heming had once proclaimed that no younger individuals would outperform him in Yan City. Now, all of his proud statements sounded as though they were merely joke.

Not a single younger person can win him?

Isn't Han Jingru younger than him?

Not only is Han Jingru comparable to Lei Heming, rather, it appears that he has also created a huge gap, setting them both apart, for an eternity to come.

Han Jingru was going up against Chen Bao. If it were Lei Heming, he would have died in his hands by now.

“Is that really Chen Bao?” Lei Heming sucked in a breath of cold air.

Fang Zhantian shot him a bittersweet smile.

“Who else could it be, if not Chen Bao? He's not weak, Rather, it's just that Han Jingru is too powerful.”

Trembling with fear, Lei Heming was still unwilling to accept the truth. “Could it be that Chen Bao has aged? Have his skills deteriorated?”

Fang Zhantian was reluctant to admit Han Jingru’s impressive profile too. Nonetheless, they had to let the truth be told. Everyone in the stadium could tell the disparity between both of their combat skills and power.

Chen Bao remained as prodigious as he was in the past, but his opponent was certainly above his level. As a result, it was evident to see who was leading.

“Lei Heming, it seems like you’ll never be able to join Apocalypse. Henceforth, you’d better keep a low profile. Once you’ve offended Han Jingru, both you and Zhantian Martial Arts Academy will be finished too.” Fang Zhantian reminded him.

Lei Heming’s ego was completely shattered at that moment. His dream to be the first in the martial arts world in Yan City was destroyed by

Han Jingru. He had to swallow his pride to embrace the fact that Han Jingru was out of his league. It was likely that it would remain as such for eternity.

Fang Zhantian stole a glance at Wang Xin, his fellow comrade from the same martial arts academy. *He was rather lucky to have met Han Jingru when his academy was about to close down. With his help, Lingyun Martial Arts Academy has easily turned around, restoring itself to its previous glory.*

Right then, Fang Zhantian was envious of Wang Xin, thinking that his destiny would be totally different if he had met Han Jingru too.

Wang Xin was still in a daze. After getting over the shock that Jiang Yingying had brought him, he was once again astonished by Han Jingru's suppressive power against Chen Bao.

Did all of them experience some strange encounters? Have they received certain superpowers? How did they become this phenomenal?

Han Jingru was charged up as he fought, cornering Chen Bao who could only defend himself. Under such circumstances, it was clear to everyone, including those from the Martial Arts Association, that Han Jingru was far more capable than Chen Bao.

No one could have guessed that the strongest martial art fighter would be defeated by the young master of the Han family.

The members of the Martial Arts Association understood that they would become a laughingstock after this incident. On the other hand, the Han family's status would rise to an unrivaled position in Yan City.

“Who would've known that Han Jingru is so capable. I can't believe that he defeated Chen Bao.”

“Didn't they say Han Jingru is just a useless piece of trash? How did he become so competent?”

“When Han Yu entered prison, the Han family

should have collapsed, but now, it is even more powerful because of Han Jingru.”

“Those who have offended the Han family would have to stay low from now on, lest Han Jingru decides to take revenge on them.”

The crowd chattered away. Those who belittled Han Jingru were now full of high praises for him; their perception of him changed in a matter of a few minutes.

“Han Jingru once exclaimed that he would force all those who offended the Han family to get on their knees in front of the Han Residence and ask for forgiveness. I recall how the whole Yan City thought it was a joke. Ironically, I don’t think anyone would dare to think so anymore.”

“I bet the Han Residence is going to be crowded with people who want to seek his forgiveness.”

“Han Jingru is the only one who can prop up the status of the Han family. Han Yu is useless compared to him.”

On the stage, Chen Bao came to the realization that he was no match for Han Jingru. Although he did not want to admit defeat, he had no choice but to do so.

Suddenly, Chen Bao gave up the fight. Not only did he lose the match, but he would also lose his life soon.

Right when everyone thought that Chen Bao's fate was sealed, a figure flashed past him and blocked the deadly punch by Han Jingru.

A look of agony crept up Han Jingru's face due to the sudden interference.

“Did someone else come? Could it be Chen Bao's partner?”

“This guy is so fast. I couldn't tell how he got onto the stage.”

“Who would have thought that Yan City has so many hidden talents. The Martial Arts Association is such a joke.”

Furrowing his brows, Han Jingru faced his new opponent and queried, “Fang Zhan, what are you doing?”

Fang Zhan retracted his trembling hand and replied, “The force that you applied was so strong that if I wasn’t prepared for it, my hand would have been crippled.”

“If you continue obstructing me, you won’t be losing only your hand,” Han Jingru threatened coldly.

Sensing his murderous intent, Fang Zhan quickly stated, “Mr. Yi wants you to let Chen Bao off the hook.”

Han Jingru turned to glare at Fang Zhan with piercing eyes. At this moment, Fang Zhan couldn’t help but feel a sense of terror rise in him.

He had never been afraid of death, but for some inexplicable reason, he shuddered in fear the moment he looked into Han Jingru’s eyes.

“Give me a reason to do so,” answered Han Jingru indifferently.

“You don’t have a good reason to kill him either. Since everyone in Yan City already knows what you’re capable of, I believe no one would dare to offend the Han family from now on, so please spare his life,” he replied calmly.

“If I don’t teach them a good lesson, some people might forget it,” Han Jingru proclaimed. In fact, he was speaking from his own experience. He had made mistakes in the past by showing others mercy. Thus, he was not going to let history repeat itself. He was determined to strike fear in everyone’s hearts in order to rid himself of trouble thoroughly.

“Isn’t it enough that the whole Martial Arts Association has been ridiculed by you?” Fang Zhan laughed bitterly.

Hearing that, Han Jingru took a glance at Chen Bao. He had no reason to kill him as there was no enmity between them. The sole reason for killing him would be to strike fear in Han Jingru’s

enemies. Although Chen Bao was innocent, he shouldn't have stood in Han Jingru's way at such a crucial moment:

However, since Mr. Yi wanted Chen Bao alive, Han Jingru had no choice but to respect his wishes, given that Mr. Yi was the Head of the Fourth Gate of Apocalypse.

“Within the next two days, I want everyone who targeted the Han family to kneel in front of the Han Residence and ask for forgiveness. Otherwise, I will personally pay all of you a visit,” boomed Han Jingru as he faced the crowd below. Although he was unsure whether any members of the Han family were in the crowd, he knew that word would spread quickly.

Instantly, the usually fearless Zhong Tianyi felt his legs turn into mush. Although he tackled most problems he faced with ease, he was at a loss at that moment.

Given Han Jingru's capabilities, how could the Zhong family defeat him?

His last hope of defeating Han Jingru lay in Chen Bao, who was the strongest fighter in Yan City, but even he almost died in the hands of Han Jingru.

“Is there really nothing I can do to defeat you?” he stammered in desperation as his shoulders slumped forward in despair, watching Han Jingru’s leaving figure.

Soon, chaos ensued when the entire Yan City caught wind of what Han Jingru said. The families who offended Han Jingru in the past flew into a panic as no one knew how to deal with him.

After all, even the whole martial arts world was inferior to Han Jingru, let alone normal citizens.

The only ending that awaited them once Han Jingru paid them a visit would be a tragic one.

In no time, many made up their minds to beg for forgiveness at the Han Residence. They would rather give up their dignity in exchange for their lives.

However, the Zhong family could not bear to sacrifice their dignity.

In fact, Zhong Mingguo was the first person to challenge the Han family. He was so hellbent on bringing about the Han family's downfall in Yan City that he even declared it proudly to the public. He swore that as long as the Zhong family was around, the Han family would never be able to regain their status in the city.

Thinking back to what he said, his words felt like a tight slap to his face.

“What is going on, Tianyi? How was Han Jingru able to act so arrogant even after his fight with Chen Bao?” Zhong Mingguo questioned.

Zhong Tianyi replied sullenly, “Grandpa, Han Jingru defeated and almost killed Chen Bao. He is way stronger than we imagined.”

Zhong Mingguo belonged to the same generation as Chen Bao, so he was more aware of the latter's capabilities than the younger generation. Back in the past, Chen Bao was undefeatable. Even Yan

Qiong, who was at the top of his game, was no match for Chen Bao.

How could Chen Bao lose to Han Jingru who is younger and less experienced than him!

“Grandpa, why don’t we go apologize? Perhaps we won’t need to kneel before them,” suggested Zhong Tianli. Although Zhong Tianli secretly gloated over the failure of Zhong Tianyi’s plan, he was more concerned about the survival of the Zhong family. If Zhong Mingguo was unwilling to admit defeat, the whole Zhong family would be slaughtered, which was Zhong Tianli’s worst nightmare.

Zhong Tianli was only concerned about leading a comfortable life. *Although an apology would be humiliating, it is far better than the whole family going bankrupt.*

“You have no right to utter such rubbish,” bellowed Zhong Mingguo coldly.

In the past, Zhong Tianli would have been intimidated. However, he was unusually bold

today, rebutting, “Han Jingru only sees the Zhong family as a piece of trash. Do you have other ways to deal with him? What can the Zhong family even do when the whole Martial Arts Association and Chen Bao are unable to defeat him?”

“You...” Zhong Mingguo chided in rage. “Don’t you know that our reputation would go down the drain if we apologized? We would lose everyone’s respect!”

“So you want us to value our dignity over our lives? I’d rather be humiliated than dead,” Zhong Tianli responded indifferently with a sneer.



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