

Just when everyone thought that Han Jingru was doomed, the man's fist had already landed on his chest. This punch was thrown with a force so deadly that even a true Gold rank fighter would not dare to take it head-on.

“This guy's really not dodging it. I bet it's because he has no time to react at all.” Seeing this scene, He Xiaoxiao let out a contemptuous sneer, finding it ridiculous that Han Jingru actually wanted to ascend to the Platinum rank with such ability.

Lin Tong frowned. Based on his knowledge of Han Jingru's ability, it should be very simple for the latter to dodge the punch. His opponent was powerful, but his speed was not so fast that Han Jingru could not dodge it. *How could this happen?*

“What the hell is this guy doing?” Lin Tong asked, puzzled.

“What else can he do? This punch is enough to kill him. Alas, it's so boring. I thought he could bring me some surprises, but unexpectedly, he's so useless.” Shaking her head in disappointment,

He Xiaoxiao went on, "It seems that the person you've prepared is superfluous as it's simply impossible for Han Jingru to reach that stage."

Everyone had exactly the same thought as He Xiaoxiao. In their opinion, Han Jingru was doomed, because being punched in the chest by such force would either cause him to die on the spot or result in irreversible internal bleeding.

"It's disappointing that a person like this actually dares to compete with Lin Tong."

"Well, he has now become a joke."

"What a loser..."

Just as everyone was making speculations, Han Jingru's opponent suddenly let out an agonizing wail with a trace of despair in the distorted expression on his face.

When his fist landed on Han Jingru, it felt like he was punching a steel wall, breaking his five fingers. At that very moment, he understood that he was no match for Han Jingru due to his strong

ability to take a beating.

“Are you tickling me?” Han Jingru asked.

The look on the man’s face changed as he was infuriated that Han Jingru actually called his all-out attack tickling. However, the hand he used to throw the punch was slowly becoming numb. Judging from the difference in their abilities, he—as the person involved—knew better than those bystanders that he would not be able to defeat Han Jingru even if he was given ten more chances.

“W-What’s going on?”

“Han Jingru has been punched, and yet he looks like he’s perfectly fine.”

“How is it possible? Has his ability to take a beating reached such a terrifying point?”

At this time, everyone finally realized what had happened.

The reason Han Jingru did not evade the attack

was not that he had no time to do so, but because he did not take such an attack of this magnitude seriously, and was able to take it head-on!

“F\*ck. Is his body made of iron? How can he be so strong?”

“He can actually win without fighting back. I can’t believe this guy is so powerful.”

“It seems that his ability has far surpassed the Silver rank, and may have already reached the Gold rank or even Platinum rank!”

Everyone gasped in amazement.

He Xiaoxiao, who was wearing a contemptuous expression, had also figured out what had happened, as her face turned grim.

Even a Platinum rank fighter next to her couldn’t help but lament, “With such a strong physical fitness, I’m afraid that everyone below the Platinum rank is no match for him.”

He Xiaoxiao was upset at this remark, so she

turned to look at the Platinum rank fighter and said, “You’ve thought too highly of him. He hasn’t even won yet.”

With a faint smile, the Platinum rank fighter explained, “Although this game is not over yet, his opponent has no more chance to strike. Even if Han Jingru gives him another chance, he will not dare to attack too because his hand has been crippled following the punch earlier.”

He Xiaoxiao gritted her teeth in anger. She hoped to see Han Jingru fall—or even die—in the ring, instead of seeing him being on the roll.

She wanted those who dared to ignore her to bear serious consequences, so she would not allow him to continue living in Apocalypse.

“Lin Tong, I hope you won’t let me down,” He Xiaoxiao said.

Sighing helplessly, Lin Tong didn’t want to see Han Jingru take the limelight as well, but this was the latter’s ability, and no one could blatantly stop him. Lin Tong was even unsure if the man he

hired was able to stop Han Jingru in the ascension test.

This was because the Platinum rank fighter was definitely not joking when he said everyone below the Platinum rank was no match for Han Jingru.

“I’ll ask him to do his best,” assured Lin Tong.

Meanwhile, Han Jingru said to his opponent in the ring, “Do you want to try again? I can give you another chance.”

The man was drenched in cold sweat. *Try again?*

*So what if I can try for ten more times?*

*A single punch has already ruined my hand. If I try again, my other hand will be ruined too.*

*Moreover, my hand is ruined when Han Jingru did not even fight back. I can’t even begin to imagine what will happen to me if he strikes.*

After a moment of hesitation, the man said to

Han Jingru with his head hung low, “I surrender.”

With a faint smile, Han Jingru walked off the ring, marking an unexpected end to the Qualifying Tournament.

“He actually won without having to make a single move. Who else could be a match for him?”

“This guy is so strong. It seems that Lin Tong will soon lose his title as the Chosen One.”

“Does he want to set a record by becoming the first person in Apocalypse’s history to ascend to the Platinum rank in such a short time?”

Like a flip-flopper, everyone who previously looked down on Han Jingru changed their views on him and sided with him. After all, Apocalypse was a place whereby people proved themselves with their ability. As long as they were strong, they could be recognized by others.

Ability was prized above anything else there.

After the first Qualifying Tournament, the news quickly reached Mr. Yi. He was not surprised by the result because he had very high expectations for Han Jingru. The latter would disappoint him if he could not even handle such small trouble.

However, the way he won still surprised Mr. Yi as Han Jingru actually made the opponent surrender without making a single move.

“Mr. Yi, I heard that Han Jingru had been punched, but it’s his opponent’s hand that has been shattered instead. Has his physical fitness reached such a terrifying level?” the assistant asked Mr. Yi skeptically. He thought that the news might be inaccurate due to alteration in the process of relaying the news, but further confirmation still gave him the exact same answer, which left him appalled.



Not a single current Platinum rank fighter could have such a strong physical fitness, which was why the assistant found the news hard to believe. In his opinion, this was beyond the tolerance of a mortal body.

It baffled Mr. Yi as well. He found no explanation for this kind of strong body, nor was it within the scope of his understanding. Yet, it convinced him even more that only Han Jingru might be able to solve the crisis.

He believed that Han Jingru was the only one who deserved to be called Messiah.

“As I said, he’s Messiah and has a strong physical fitness. This allows him to have an upper hand when dealing with the creatures of the second world. This is a good thing for Apocalypse and even the entire world,” said Mr. Yi.

His assistant nodded his head. According to Apocalypse Bible, the creatures of the second world were very powerful in terms of physique. This was also the reason why so many Platinum rank fighters died back then. If the Platinum rank

fighters at the time could have a strong physique like Han Jingru did, the battle would not have been so tragic.

“Mr. Yi, I’m increasingly convinced by what you said,” said the assistant.

At the same time, the news had also reached Three Halls.

When He Qingfeng first heard about this incident, he found it ridiculous and did not believe it at all. However, after his spy had confirmed the authenticity of the news, the expression on He Qingfeng’s face became somber.

“Are you really sure? Is his body so strong that it can really shatter his opponent’s hand?” He Qingfeng asked.

The spy nodded his head and replied, “I have confirmed it several times, and it is true. If you still don’t believe it, I can get him to see you.”

“Get him here right away. I’d like to see what’s

going on.” If He Qingfeng did not see it with his own eyes, he would not believe it, or rather, he could not believe it.

Shortly after the spy left, Han Jingru’s opponent was brought to Three Halls.

As a Silver rank fighter, he had never been in contact with the Three Halls domain before, nor had he seen He Qingfeng, the head of the Three Halls, so up close and personal. Hence, this made him feel nervous, and he did not even have the courage to look up while standing in front of He Qingfeng.

“Raise your hand,” He Qingfeng instructed the man.

“Master, my hand has been completely ruined and has lost all feeling,” the man said.

Knitting his brows, He Qingfeng stepped forward and grasped the man’s hand, his frown growing deeper.

Not only was his hand ruined, but its bones were

also broken. There was even an obvious sign of fracture in the wrist.

“Is this really caused by the punch you landed on Han Jingru’s body?” He Qingfeng took a deep breath as he could not believe that such a strong shockwave would come from a human body.

“It is true, Master. If you want to know the detailed process, I can describe to you how I felt at the time,” suggested the man.

“It’s okay. You may leave now,” said He Qingfeng while shaking his head.

The result had been presented right before his eyes, which was enough to prove how powerful Han Jingru was. The detailed process was meaningless to him, so he didn’t think it was necessary to know it.

Once such a fighter appeared in the Four Gates, the status of the Three Halls would be in jeopardy. Even if Mr. Yi would really go to the second world, he would not be able to suppress Han Jingru, who was so powerful.

“Where did this old man find such a monster?”  
He Qingfeng said through his gritted teeth.

Meanwhile, the Qualifying Tournament was still ongoing. Without much difficulty, Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying worked their way to the next round of the Qualifying Tournament, the test from Gold rank fighters.

He Xiaoxiao returned to the Three Halls domain with strong dissatisfaction as the fact that Han Jingru had stolen the show made her blood boil. Everyone in Apocalypse was now speculating that Han Jingru was very powerful, and might even set the record for the fastest ascension to the Platinum rank. Unable to accept the fact that someone who used to ignore her had such an achievement, He Xiaoxiao had only one thought in mind—to stop Han Jingru. She wanted everyone in Apocalypse to know that Han Jingru was nothing but a piece of trash.

“What’s the matter? Didn’t you go to watch the Qualifying Tournament? Did anyone offend you?” He Qingfeng asked when he saw the unhappy look on He Xiaoxiao’s face.

“Dad, help me to find a way to stop Han Jingru.” He Xiaoxiao had been keeping He Qingfeng in the dark about this matter, but she had to tell him now because she was worried that Lin Tong would fail at stopping Han Jingru.

Her tone of voice showed that there was obviously a conflict between the two of them, which left He Qingfeng puzzled. *Han Jingru has only come to Apocalypse for a short time. Why would he be in a conflict with He Xiaoxiao?*

“What’s the matter? What did he do that offended my baby girl?” He Qingfeng asked.

“It’s not important. You just need to help me find a way. I can’t let him get all the attention,” insisted He Xiaoxiao.

He Qingfeng walked to her side and comforted, “You should be very clear about the rules in Apocalypse. Even though I’m the head of the Three Halls, I cannot break the rules too.”

“Are you going to wait for him to humiliate your daughter after his ascension to the Platinum

rank?” He Xiaoxiao said with tears in her eyes.

As a slave to his daughter, He Qingfeng felt his heart ache for her, and said angrily, “My dear daughter, tell me how has he offended you. If he’s really in the wrong, I’ll definitely seek revenge for you.”

He Xiaoxiao then told He Qingfeng about her conflict with Han Jingru. After hearing it, He Qingfeng was helpless as he seemed to be unable to find fault with Han Jingru even if he wanted to.

“Don’t you know that Han Jingru already has a wife and kid? It’s understandable that he feels nothing toward you,” He Qingfeng said.

“Understandable?” He Xiaoxiao glared at him. She basked in the attention of everyone in Apocalypse, and yet Han Jingru was the only one who disregarded her. As someone who had become accustomed to being treated like a princess, she did not find it understandable.

“Are you asking me to understand him?” He

Xiaoxiao said in a cold tone.

He Qingfeng sighed inwardly. Knowing that he was the one that spoiled He Xiaoxiao rotten, he wanted to take responsibility for her current character. However, she was his only daughter, so he could not bring himself to be harsh with her.

“My dear daughter, just let it go. I’m afraid that Apocalypse will be in big trouble soon, and Han Jingru may even be able to help with it,” He Qingfeng persuaded. Although he did not believe it when Mr. Yi told him that only Han Jingru can save Apocalypse, he thought that Han Jingru could indeed make some contributions to Apocalypse, given the latter’s ability that he had shown.

It would be very unfortunate for Apocalypse to have such a fighter killed because of He Xiaoxiao’s willfulness.

In the face of trivial matters, He Qingfeng would first take the interests of the Three Halls into consideration, but in the face of something serious like the second world, He Qingfeng dared



not to do so.



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He Xiaoxiao kept silent with a sullen look on her face. She didn't care about the trouble that Apocalypse might face as she believed everything revolved around her. She lived by the thinking that she would make life difficult for anyone who upset her.

She could not feel at ease if she were unable to get back at him.

“Dad, since you don't want to help me, I'll figure out a solution by myself,” He Xiaoxiao announced in a cold voice.

He Qingfeng wanted to dissuade her, but He Xiaoxiao had already turned to leave, so he could only sigh helplessly.

“Follow her. Don't let her do anything stupid,” He Qingfeng instructed his man.

After leaving the Three Halls domain, He Xiaoxiao went to Lin Tong. Since He Qingfeng refused to help, she had to make sure that the person Lin Tong hired was strong enough to kill Han Jingru in the test tomorrow.

She had made her goal clear—she wanted Han Jingru dead. Only when he was dead would she be happy.

“I want to meet the person you’ve hired,” He Xiaoxiao said to Lin Tong in a commanding tone.

Knowing He Xiaoxiao well, he understood that no one could control her ill temper.

“I’ll get him here right away,” Lin Tong replied.

After a short while, a middle-aged man—who looked to be about forty years old—showed up in front of them.

He Xiaoxiao scrutinized him. Although her ability was very weak, Gold rank fighters were trash in her eyes, and she would not talk to such a person usually.

“As long as you can kill Han Jingru, I can give you a higher status in the Three Halls,” He Xiaoxiao said to the man.

The man glanced at Lin Tong. The latter had only

wanted him to stop Han Jingru from ascending when he hired him initially and had never told him to kill anyone.

“Ms. He, you should be very clear about Apocalypse’s rules. Killing each other is a capital offense. If I kill Han Jingru, I’ll lose my own life as well,” the man replied.

He Xiaoxiao shot the man a cold look and said, “Are you going to disobey my order?”

“Lin Tong, murder isn’t what we agreed to,” the man said to Lin Tong.

Lin Tong did not mention murder because even Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng dared not break this rule, but He Xiaoxiao was obviously determined to kill Han Jingru.

“It’s really not something we’ve previously agreed on, but do you think you still have a choice now?” Lin Tong said indifferently.

Frowning, the man decisively refused, “If this is the case, I’ll quit. I won’t ruin my own future

because of this.”

After speaking, the man was ready to leave when He Xiaoxia suddenly said, “I believe you still have a family in the mundane world.”

At this, the man stopped dead in his tracks and instantly clenched his fists.

It had been ten years since he came to Apocalypse, but he also had his own happy family in the mundane world before that. It was obvious that He Xiaoxiao’s remarks meant that she wanted to use his family to threaten him.

“Should you dare to disobey my order, I’ll get someone to kill all your relatives in the mundane world by beating them to death,” He Xiaoxiao went on.

The man turned around and lashed out, “How dare you, He Xiaoxiao!”

“As the daughter of the head of the Three Halls, I dare to do everything. Besides, do you think you can stop me? Everyone in Apocalypse can only

leave here once a year, so you can't possibly stop me," said He Xiaoxiao.

The man took a deep breath. He didn't expect He Xiaoxiao to be so shameless, and he also knew that she would definitely be able to do what she said.

As she said, she was the daughter of the head of the Three Halls!

"But if I kill Han Jingru, I will die too myself," the man replied.

"Accidents happen in tests, so death is out of our control. Don't worry, I will bail you out using the power of Three Halls," He Xiaoxiao promised him.

"Really?" The man could not quite trust He Xiaoxiao.

"Of course. Besides, if I don't bail you out after I ask you to kill him, you'll betray me. What should I do then?" He Xiaoxiao assured him.

After a moment of hesitation, the man agreed, “Okay, I’ll do it.”

Since he had something on her, he believed that He Xiaoxiao dared not fool him. Just as she said, he could expose He Xiaoxiao as the mastermind and die together with her if she did not bail him out.

“Can you really make his death appear like an accident?” Lin Tong asked after the man left, knowing that calling it an accident would be a weak explanation. It was simply impossible that a Gold-rank fighter would accidentally kill a new Bronze rank fighter in a test.

“Arrange for a fighter who’s good at using hidden weapons to be there tomorrow. After he kills Han Jingru, I want him to die too,” He Xiaoxiao instructed.

Lin Tong was shocked. For a moment he believed what He Xiaoxiao had said, but to his surprise, she actually wanted to kill the man as well!

Lin Tong finally realized how vicious a woman

could be. Working with such a woman sent chills down his spine as he could not help but wonder,

“If you do this, it will only make the situation worse. The Four Gates and Three Halls will definitely work together to investigate this matter thoroughly,” Lin Tong reminded her. This plan was vicious enough, but not perfect, because it involved an extra person. The more people were involved in this matter, the more uncertainties there would be.

“Since I can do this, there is naturally a solution to it. You only need to make the arrangement according to my instructions,” He Xiaoxiao said.

Lin Tong pulled a long face. *A solution?*

Once the Four Gates and Three Halls were alarmed, even He Xiaoxiao could not quell the matter so easily albeit her identity as He Qingfeng’s daughter.

Suddenly, Lin Tong’s expression changed as he said to He Xiaoxiao, “He Xiaoxiao, you won’t make me a scapegoat for this, will you?”



“Why would I? You and I are accomplices,” He Xiaoxiao assured him with a smile.

Women were hard to understand. The more beautiful a woman was, the more unreliable she was, not to mention that she was a woman as vicious as a viper.

Lin Tong refused to be used by her like a tool that even had to bear all the responsibilities for everything.

“He Xiaoxiao, I’m out of this,” declared Lin Tong.

He Xiaoxiao’s face clouded over as she said, “Lin Tong, do you have a choice now? You do know how the Four Gates thinks of you now, don’t you? If the Three Halls is unwilling to accept you, you will be a laughing stock at Four Gates. Do you think you still have the audacity to return to Four Gates?”

Lin Tong and the Three Halls had been very close recently, which was something that everyone in the Four Gates knew. There had even been

rumors that he would betray the Four Gates and join the Three Halls. Under this circumstance, Lin Tong had absolutely no way out, because everyone in Four Gates would laugh at him and treat him as a piece of trash even if he were willing to go back to the Four Gates. As the Chosen One, Lin Tong would never want to have such a stain in his life.



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Looking at Lin Tong, who was hesitating, He Xiaoxiao sneered. *As a man, how can he make great things happen if he does things so indecisively? Is this the only courage the Chosen One has?*

“Lin Tong, I didn’t expect you, the Chosen One, to be such a coward. I’ve overestimated you. If you want to quit, get out now. I’ll never stop you,” He Xiaoxiao said.

Lin Tong knew that He Xiaoxiao was deliberately provoking him, but he also knew that he would never have the opportunity to join the Three Halls again if he left now. Considering how much He Qingfeng spoiled her, he knew that the former would never accept him again as long as He Xiaoxiao objected to it.

*Do I just return to the Four Gates and become the laughing stock?*

The moment when Lin Tong had the idea of betraying the Four Gates, there was no longer a way out. He would never allow himself to be humiliated by people in the Four Gates.

“I’m going to find someone who’s good at using hidden weapons,” Lin Tong yielded.

A smile broke across He Xiaoxiao’s face. She had expected that he would stay as Lin Tong was a person with strong self-esteem. Having been hailed as the Chosen One for so many years, he valued his pride a lot, so it was impossible that he would return to the Four Gates and let himself be humiliated.

“Don’t worry. After this is over, I will let you join the Three Halls,” promised He Xiaoxiao.

Lin Tong took a deep breath. His biggest concern now was not whether he could join the Three Halls, but whether the murder of Han Jingru could go smoothly. Otherwise, the consequences would be unimaginable.

At the Silver domain, Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying were practicing hard for tomorrow’s test. To be more precise, Jiang Yingying was the one practicing, while Han Jingru was daydreaming on the side. This was because, with his current physical condition, tomorrow’s test

would never be of a hindrance to him.

“Jingru, you have to be more careful tomorrow,” Fang Zhan walked up to Han Jingru and reminded him.

“Lin Tong’s not giving up yet? We’re already in Apocalypse. He dares not to break the rules of Apocalypse, does he?” asked Han Jingru, puzzled.

“If it’s just Lin Tong, I won’t worry too much, but you’re at odds with He Xiaoxiao, aren’t you?” Fang Zhan said. He had asked around about He Xiaoxiao in private and learned what kind of person she was, as many of her deeds were widely spread in Apocalypse.

A vengeful woman was not someone to be trifled with. Moreover, this woman even had a backing like the head of the Three Halls, so no one could know for sure what she would do at will.

“This woman is a little weird. Would you believe it if I tell you that I don’t even know how I’ve provoked her?” Han Jingru replied, feeling

helpless. When he met He Xiaoxiao today, the hatred in her eyes left Han Jingru confused.

In Han Jingru's opinion, he and He Xiaoxiao had merely met once, and he did not think that he had offended her. Yet, her attitude toward him made it feel like she bore intense hatred for him.

“Women have always been a strange creature, especially this kind of arrogant woman. It's normal that you have provoked her unintentionally. Besides, I heard that she's spoiled rotten by He Qingfeng so much that she's on her high horse all the time in Apocalypse. No matter how bad are the things she did, He Qingfeng will find ways to help her settle them, which also fuels her willfulness. So I'm worried that she will sabotage the test tomorrow,” said Fang Zhan.

Han Jingru looked at Fang Zhan with surprise on his face. *Didn't this guy live in seclusion in the mountains for many years? Unexpectedly, he has a thorough understanding of women. Considering that he can say things like this, he must have experienced certain things himself.*

“Fang Zhan, it seems that your love story is quite interesting. When are you free to share it with me so that I can learn something?” Han Jingru asked with a smile.

“You have such a sweet relationship with Su Yimo. Do you still need to learn some more?” When Fang Zhan spoke, there was indeed an apparent trace of envy in his eyes.

In the beginning, Fang Zhan had only followed Han Jingru because of his daughter. However, the longer he spent time with Han Jingru, the more he was able to notice his charisma, which was not only targeted at women, as he could similarly be affected by him despite being a man.

Fang Zhan was impressed by Han Jingru’s firm dedication toward his relationship with Su Yimo.

With Han Jingru’s status in the mundane world, he could get any women he wanted, which was the temptation that many men would give in to and stoop to, but Han Jingru did not do so. This was not something that every man could do.

“Of course I do. We can only get along better after learning from other’s experiences,” Han Jinru replied with a smile.

Fang Zhan glared at him and inferred, “You don’t really want to know my experience, do you?”

Han Jingru flashed him a sly grin. Fang Zhan was also a cunning man, so it was not strange that he was able to guess what he was thinking.

“You have been separated from your daughter for so many years. I’m really intrigued by the story behind it. More importantly, you know very little about her. This shows that you only know that you have a daughter. It makes me wonder what exactly has happened,” explained Han Jingru.

A trace of regret flashed across Fang Zhan’s face as if he were regretting a certain decision he made back then.

After a moment of silence, he said, “I was crazy about martial arts back then and devoted all my energy to it. When I know that I have the opportunity to join Apocalypse, can you



understand how excited I was?”

“So you were so excited that you abandoned your wife and kid?” Han Jingru asked, curious.

Fang Zhan took a deep breath and replied, “She had just gotten pregnant.”

“F\*ck. Fang Zhan, you’re so not a man!” Han Jingru exclaimed in surprise. A woman must be in so much despair after being abandoned by her husband during her pregnancy. Fang Zhan actually did something so horrendous in order to join Apocalypse. It was no wonder that he knew very little about his daughter because he hadn’t even met his own daughter.

“When you’ve truly known Apocalypse, you’ll probably understand why I chose to do so because it’s not only for myself, but also for something more important,” Fang Zhan explained.

“So it involves the secret of Apocalypse again?” Han Jingru asked with a frown.

Nodding his head, Fang Zhan replied, “I believe that if you arrive at such a crossroad, you will make the same choice as I did as well.”

“Bullsh\*t.” Snorting, Han Jingru added, “Even if the sky falls, I will never abandon my wife and kid. This is something only a monster can do. I won’t ever do it.”

By saying that it was something only a monster could do, he was indirectly scolding Fang Zhan, but the latter laughed it off and asked instead, “What if their lives can only be secured by us leaving them?”



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*Maid!*

“She’s so strong despite her lowly position.”

When He Xiaoxiao heard these words, she instinctively gritted her teeth in anger. As the daughter of the head of the Three Halls, she was spoiled, but she could not even compare to Han Jingru’s maid in terms of ability. This made her feel indignant as she could not accept the fact that there was a woman who was better than she was in Apocalypse.

She now regretted that she had only arranged for someone to kill Han Jingru, without targeting Jiang Yingying.

*I can’t let both Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying live.*

However, as long as Han Jingru was dead, killing Jiang Yingying was only a matter of time, so He Xiaoxiao was in no hurry.

“Dad, if I’m willing to train harder, this woman is nothing,” He Xiaoxiao said disdainfully.

He Qingfeng gave a resigned smile, knowing that there were no “ifs” in this world. Yet, it did not matter even if He Xiaoxiao didn’t train hard. She could maintain her status as long as he was there, and he didn’t want to see her suffer as well.

“That’s for sure,” replied He Qingfeng.

At this time, the test on the stage had begun. The two exchanged attacks in equal measure.

Whenever Jiang Yingying faced technical attacks from her opponent, she could only block them with her body most of the time, because, in terms of agility, her responsiveness was far from being enough to cope with the opponent’s attacks.

This made her blood boil. After all, her body was not as strong as Han Jingru’s, so the pain that accompanied each attack fueled her anger even more.

Had it not been for Han Jingru’s reminder, she would have been tempted to fight back with all her strength.

“I thought she’s very powerful. Turns out she’s

only there to get beaten up,” He Xiaoxiao mocked after seeing Jiang Yingying’s performance.

He Qingfeng, who was standing next to her, frowned. On the surface, Jiang Yingying seemed to be struggling to deal with it, but she was obviously still holding back for some reason which was unfathomable to him.

“Dad, why don’t you speak? Why are you still so engrossed in it when her performance is so poor?” He Xiaoxiao asked after not getting a response from He Qingfeng.

He Qingfeng knew that He Xiaoxiao criticized Jiang Yingying’s ability only because she was unconvinced deep down. However, Jiang Yingying’s ability was not something she could discredit simply with her words.

“This woman is holding back, which is why the others mistakenly believe that she is being beaten,” He Qingfeng said.

He Xiaoxiao grew even more displeased when

she heard this and protested, “Dad, she’s obviously being beaten, why do you still want to defend her? Or do you have a fling with this woman?”

He Qingfeng smiled bitterly at how unreasonable she was being.

Meanwhile, Jiang Yingying, who was on the ring, got impatient as she glanced at Han Jingru.

Knowing that she had lost all her patience while being beaten, Han Jingru nodded his head at her.

Taking the hint, Jiang Yingying raised the corners of her lips.

At the same time, the look in He Qingfeng’s eyes turned serious as he said, “Next, it’ll be the display of her true ability.”

Jiang Yingying suddenly ignored the opponent’s attack. Since she could not beat her opponent in terms of technique and speed, she could only give up her defense while seeking to land a fatal blow.

“The test is over,” the Gold rank appraiser declared with a faint smile upon seeing that Jiang Yingying seemed to have given up the fight.

*Bang!*

Following a loud noise, the appraiser was seen being thrown out of the ring. It all happened so fast that even the spectators could not return to their senses, let alone the appraiser himself.

Clapping her hands, Jiang Yingying said with a smile, “It’s finally over. I’ve had enough of letting you beat me.”

After speaking, Jiang Yingying stepped off the ring. Only then did everyone recover from their shock.

“I-It’s over just like this?”

“S-She can actually defeat a Gold rank fighter!”

“How is it possible? Is she so strong that even a Gold-rank fighter is no match for her?”

The sound of exclamation was heard coming from everywhere, while everyone was wearing an unbelievable expression on their face, as though they had seen an illusion or were dreaming.

There was a high threshold between Silver rank and Gold rank. Even if one were successfully promoted to Gold rank, it would take a long time to train to reach the actual potential of Gold rank. Yet, Jiang Yingying defeated a Gold-rank fighter in a test, which showed just how strong she was.

Standing next to Han Jingru while noticing the gasps of amazement from everywhere, Jiang Yingying stuck out her tongue and said, “Do you think I’ve gone too far, Jingru?”

“No, of course. That guy has hit you more than ten times,” assured Han Jingru with a smile.

Jiang Yingying was relieved to hear him say so.

Meanwhile, He Qingfeng took a deep breath as they hadn’t seen such a strong newcomer for many years in Apocalypse. Even Lin Tong, who was hailed as the Chosen One, did not display



such a strong ability.

While Jiang Yingying was just the maid of Han Jingru. Hence, He Qingfeng was even more eager to see the actual ability of Han Jingru.

“I was right, wasn’t I? If this woman hadn’t held back, her appraiser would have already lost,” He Qingfeng said to He Xiaoxiao.

He Xiaoxiao was still in a state of utter stupefaction. She prided herself on her identity as the daughter of the head of the Three Halls, and could reign over anyone, but it was pointless to have such a high status as her ability could not even be compared to that of Jiang Yingying. Therefore, she had no right to act high and mighty in front of Han Jingru.

At this moment, she finally realized how painful it was to have no ability. If she were given another chance to choose, she would spend more time on training, but even this was of no avail. This was because, in terms of ability, no matter how high-born she was, and regardless of how many masters were training her, she would never

be better than Han Jingru.

The same was true for Lin Tong.

At this moment, the title of the Chosen One seemed extremely ridiculous to him. He was proud of it, but unexpectedly, his achievements were so insignificant in front of Jiang Yingying.

He once set a record as he held out for twenty-five moves in the Gold rank test, which was the limit of the current Qualifying Tournament in Apocalypse. Yet, Jiang Yingying could directly defeat the Gold rank appraiser, which indicated that he was definitely not in the same league as she was.

Most distressing to him was that this was just Jiang Yingying's performance, while Han Jingru's ability was even greater than hers!

"It seems that our plan is going to fail," Lin Tong blurted out unknowingly without a care for the fact that He Qingfeng was still there.

"What plan?" asked He Qingfeng.

He Xiaoxiao's heart skipped a beat as she hurriedly brushed him off, "It's nothing, Dad."

He Qingfeng noticed the look of panic in her eyes. Based on his understanding of her, it was impossible that he would believe her reply.

"Lin Tong, tell me now while it still can be rectified before a major mistake is made," He Qingfeng confronted Lin Tong with a grim look on his face.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Having unintentionally exposed his plan with He Xiaoxiao, he shuddered after coming back to his senses.

There would be serious consequences if He Qingfeng knew about this. By telling him, he would also betray He Xiaoxiao, and the consequences of offending the wicked woman were even more unimaginable.

However, what was said obviously could not be unsaid.

When Lin Tong noticed He Xiaoxiao shooting daggers at him, he did not dare to look up.

He Qingfeng grabbed him by the collar and lifted him off the ground. He knew how willful his daughter was. If she really did something that violated the rules of Apocalypse, he would not be able to save her albeit his identity as the head of the Three Halls, so he could only stop it before it happened.

“Lin Tong, I want you to tell me what’s going on and what your plan is,” He Qingfeng said through

his gritted teeth.

Lin Tong's breathing was trembling as He Qingfeng's intimidating aura was making him out of breath.

“Master, t-the plan i-is to kill Han Jingru,” Lin Tong stuttered.

*Kill Han Jingru!*

He Qingfeng flung him away. The greatest taboo in Apocalypse was to kill each other. He thought that He Xiaoxiao would not do such a stupid thing even though she was willful. After all, it involved human lives, and a girl like her would not have such a vicious thought.

But at this moment, he knew that he was wrong. He Xiaoxiao was far more than willful as she could do everything for the pleasure of revenge.

“He Xiaoxiao, I demand you to halt this plan right away,” He Qingfeng roared.

He Xiaoxiao did not look regretful at this

moment, and was even annoyed at He Qingfeng. She didn't understand why he had to be so angry and found it unnecessary to make such a fuss over killing a piece of trash that had just joined Apocalypse.

*Shouldn't Han Jingru die after messing with me?*

*Moreover, as the head of the Three Halls, how could he be unable to settle something so trivial?*

“Dad, you're the mighty head of the Three Halls. This is just a trivial thing to you. Do you need to get so nervous? We can just fall out with the Four Gates. No big deal. It's not like the Four Gates is as powerful as Three Halls now,” replied He Xiaoxiao stubbornly.

He Qingfeng was so mad that he started to laugh. To his dismay, He Xiaoxiao actually said such a thing. Although the Four Gates and Three Halls had been at odds for many years, they belonged to Apocalypse after all. No one would dare to cause a rupture in the relationship between the two easily.

Even Mr. Yi could not possibly do so.

Moreover, the disaster from a century ago was very likely to strike again now that there was a change in the entrance to the second world. The Four Gates and Three Halls must work together to have a chance to deal with this trouble. If they had infighting at this time, both Apocalypse and the entire terrestrial world would fall into chaos. By then, no one could have survived the invasion of the second world.

“A trivial thing?” He Qingfeng looked at He Xiaoxiao with a cold face as he continued, “Killing people is just a trivial thing for you now?”

“Yeah. Is killing a piece of trash considered a big deal?” He Xiaoxiao held her head high, without any sense of remorse. She even thought that it was the most natural thing to do.

It was not until this moment that He Qingfeng finally realized what kind of person his overdone love had made He Xiaoxiao into. She was arrogant, capricious, and self-willed. She was no

longer his cute little princess back then.

He must find a way to make her aware of her mistakes.

*Smack!*

With a raise of his hand, He Qingfeng slapped He Xiaoxiao on the face.

The atmosphere instantly turned so tense it felt like you could cut it with a knife.

He Xiaoxiao covered her face and looked at He Qingfeng in disbelief.

She had never been beaten since she was born as He Qingfeng tried every means to shower her with love and never made her feel wronged. But now, he had actually given her a hard slap in the face.

After He Qingfeng slapped her, a deep sense of regret and distress immediately took over him. *How could I beat her so hard after having coddled her for decades?*



“Did you just hit me?” said He Xiaoxiao as the look in her eyes gradually clouded over.

“I-I...” He Qingfeng looked at He Xiaoxiao in a slight panic.

“Since I was young, you’ve never laid a hand on me, but now, you hit me because of an outsider.” He Xiaoxiao felt the burning pain on her cheek as the look in her eyes grew emotionless.

“I want you to know the serious consequences of breaking the rules in Apocalypse. By hitting you, I just want to make you realize your impending mistake. When you’ve really made the grave mistake, the consequences will be far more than a slap in the face.” He Qingfeng knew that he had to harden his heart and make her realize her mistake, or the slap would be in vain.

But obviously, He Xiaoxiao would not recognize her mistake. Because of the slap, not only did she hate Han Jingru even more now, but also He Qingfeng.

“I know what I’m doing, and you can’t stop it

now,” He Xiaoxiao replied, gritting her teeth.

He Qingfeng turned around and looked at the ring. By now, Han Jingru and his appraiser were already standing on the ring. Obviously, He Xiaoxiao’s plan was to use the appraiser to kill Han Jingru.

“The plan won’t work,” Lin Tong said in despair on the side. After witnessing Jiang Yingying’s ability, he knew that the man he hired could never be a match for Han Jingru. Considering that even Jiang Yingying was nearly as powerful as a Platinum rank fighter, it was impossible that Han Jingru would be weaker than the man, who was just a Gold-rank fighter.

Lin Tong had now thoroughly realized how much he underestimated Han Jingru. It was not a matter of time before Han Jingru surpassed him. Instead, it depended on when he would let Apocalypse know his actual ability. All of this would only change because of a single thought from him.

*The Chosen One.*

*What a ridiculous title.*

*I'm nothing in front of Han Jingru.*

“What nonsense are you talking about? Believe it or not. I’ll kill you.” For He Xiaoxiao, who desperately wanted Han Jingru dead, she was undoubtedly unable to accept what Lin Tong said.

Lin Tong smiled in relief and said, “In fact, we all know how powerful Han Jingru is, but we simply refuse to admit it. He Xiaoxiao, haven’t you seen the truth? Neither you nor I am as outstanding as Han Jingru is. The only thing you have is just the status as the daughter of the head of the Three Halls, while what I have is just the hollow title of the Chosen One. In the face of an opponent with actual ability, both of us are nothing.”

His words hurt He Xiaoxiao to the core of her heart. *Again. Ability. Is ability really more important than status? I'm the daughter of the head of the Three Halls. Even the Platinum rank fighters of Three Halls have to be respectful to me. How can a person like Han Jingru be compared to me?*

“Cut the b\*llshit. This kind of trash can’t be compared to me,” He Xiaoxiao retorted angrily.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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On the ring, Han Jingru still stood with his hands behind his back, but his posture did not appear awkward, nor did it make others think that he was taking the test with the Gold-rank fighter lightly. On the contrary, many people thought that this was what a real master would do, and many women were even fangirling over him.

They believed that Han Jingru would definitely be able to pass the test, and could even possibly end the battle in the shortest time.

After all, Jiang Yingying had made the miracle possible earlier, while Han Jingru was obviously more powerful than she was. So they reckoned that he would also be able to do what she could do.

“He’s so handsome. It turns out that there’s someone who is more handsome than Lin Tong in this world.”

“He is the true Chosen One. Lin Tong’s nothing.”

“From today onwards, Han Jingru is my prince charming. Lin Tong? Get out of my way.”

Those who said these things used to be Lin Tong's admirers, but now they had turned to Han Jingru and expressed their love for him openly.

"Han Jingru, I wanna be your woman."

"I'm your Miss Right. Look at me. Look at me."

"Han Jingru, I'll be waiting for you to marry me."

Many women in the audience began to get excited, but Han Jingru was not at all happy when he heard those words. He was annoyed instead as he didn't need the admiration from these women. Besides, this kind of thing would only give him a great sense of exasperation, instead of a sense of superiority.

There was rage on the appraiser's face because Han Jingru didn't seem to take him seriously, while the crazy women in the audience seemed to be saying that he was going to lose.

However, he was not blinded by his rage. Jiang Yingying's performance earlier was enough to

put him on guard in this test.

Furthermore, his goal today was to kill Han Jingru to keep his family in the mundane world safe, so he dared not take this test lightly.

“Han Jingru, I’m not at Silver rank. It’s not a good thing for you to be so careless,” the appraiser said.

He needed Han Jingru to make an all-out effort, only in this way could he find a chance to kill him by mistake.

“I advise you to put away your murderous intent, otherwise, it’ll be you who die here today,” warned Han Jingru. Fang Zhan specifically reminded him yesterday, so he knew that the appraiser was up to no good. The purpose of him saying those things was not to get himself out of trouble but to remind the appraiser.

The appraiser sneered coldly and said, “Cut the nonsense. Take that.”

The difference in ability between a Gold-rank

fighter and a Silver-rank fighter could easily be seen with the naked eye. After he struck, Han Jingru could clearly feel a powerful pressure. Of course, this feeling was merely a result of the comparison with the Silver rank. For Han Jingru, this amount of pressure was nothing at all.

He did not take the initiative to strike during their fight and was carefully observing his moves instead. In his opinion, he could gain a lot of experience in actual combat, especially from the opponent's moves, which were worth learning. This kind of experience could not be gained through training.

After seeing this scene from afar, He Qingfeng heaved an inward sigh of relief as he didn't need to worry about Han Jingru's safety at all following the manifestation of his ability. When the former gradually discovered the latter's purpose of not taking any action, he felt even more horrified.

As a person who had just joined Apocalypse, Han Jingru was actually able to observe his opponent's moves during the test with a Gold-



rank fighter, which showed that his ability was so much greater than this Gold-rank fighter. This was the only reason that he could have such a mood and time to observe his opponent.

At this time, He Qingfeng couldn't help but think of what Mr. Yi had said before back in the Restricted Area.

*Only Han Jingru can solve the troubles from the second world.*

He Qingfeng previously treated his words as some kind of joke, but now, he had a hunch that Han Jingru might really be able to do it.

This was because even up to now, no one had been able to bring out the actual ability of Han Jingru, that was to say, his limit was a mystery. It was impossible to guess how far his limit could go.

He Qingfeng took a deep breath and muttered to himself, "Who exactly is this fella? What is his limit? Could it be that he's already on the same level as the Top Ten Elites?"

*Top Ten Elites!*

His words caused Lin Tong to freeze in shock.

As the Chosen One, he was now only at Gold rank, while Han Jingru was only here in Apocalypse for less than a month, but He Qingfeng actually spoke so highly of him.

If these words had been uttered by someone else, Lin Tong would have scoffed at them, but it was of great significance for him to hear it from He Qingfeng.

“There’s actually such a big difference between me and him?” Lin Tong said with a blank look.

At this time, He Xiaoxiao was the one who felt the worst. Being slapped by He Qingfeng gave her a taste of the strict fatherly love she had never experienced before. More importantly, the fact that the man, whom she had seen as a piece of trash all this while, could actually get such a high opinion from her dad shattered her ego.

Thinking of how Han Jingru had ignored her

before, He Xiaoxiao felt a stabbing pain in her heart.

At that time, she thought she could be high and mighty in front of Han Jingru as she was the daughter of the head of the Three Halls. But now, he was almost on the level of Platinum rank, which had diminished her position of superiority.

It did not matter even though she was the daughter of the head of the Three Halls. In Apocalypse, where ability was prized above anything else, it was totally up to the Platinum-rank fighters whether to show her some respect.

On the ring, the Gold-rank appraiser was almost at full strength, but he did not cause any harm to Han Jingru. Even up to this moment, he had not even been able to launch an effective attack as Han Jingru could easily dodge every single attack from him. Whether it was strength or speed, he seemed to be not in the same league as Han Jingru, which made him extremely frustrated.

At this time, he was no longer thinking about how to kill Han Jingru, but to prove himself.

*How could a person who hasn't even been promoted to the Gold rank make a fool out of me?*

“Han Jingru, you're just a coward. Apart from dodging, do you dare to fight me head-on?” the Gold-rank appraiser shouted furiously.

Seeing how mad his opponent was, Han Jingru gave him a faint smile and said, “I'm worried that you will soon be defeated after I strike. It'll be so boring then, won't it?”

His remark was a pure humiliation, so a rage immediately took the Gold-rank appraiser over as he completely lost it.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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*Han Jingru, fight back.*

“We couldn’t wait any longer, hurry!”

“Beat him up!”

The crowd offstage could not help but egg him on. They were dying to know how badly a Gold-rank elite fighter would be beaten up by Han Jingru.

Seeing that the crowd was cheering him on, he said rather impassively, “Your wishes are my command.”

In just a split of a second, he appeared right in front of the Gold-rank appraiser. His movements were so swift that they were indiscernible to the naked eye. Stunned, Han Jingru’s opponent finally realized that Han Jingru was leaps and bounds ahead of himself.

“It’s over.”

Despair washed over the Gold-rank appraiser as he heard Han Jingru’s voice. *How absurd of me to even think about taking Han Jingru’s life.*

*Bang!*

The appraiser's body was sent flying off the stage in a projectile.

Han Jingru had completed the level-up challenge with just a single move.

Everybody went silent at the turn of events. Even though they had expected Han Jingru to win, the crowd certainly did not expect the fight to end in such a way.

He only used a single move to complete the challenge. Needless to say, he could have just ended the fight the moment he walked up the stage, if he wanted to.

“This is... ridiculous! Han Jingru was so fast. How did he win?”

“I guess he's already at the Platinum rank. His movements were swift.”

“Well, Apocalypse used to think that he was just a joke. Guess who’s the joke now.”

“How could Lin Tong even compete with him? He’s only at the Gold rank after so many years.”

“Even though he’s quite formidable, don’t you guys forget that one has to pass through the Devil’s Cave’s to ascend to the Platinum rank. Mind you, not a single soul has ever walked out alive from the Devil’s Cave in the past ten years.”

Han Jingru had amazed everyone with his skills. However, some cool-headed onlookers knew that this was just the beginning for him. Han Jingru would only join the ranks of the Platinums if he made it out alive from the Devil’s Cave.

Han Jingru shook his head helplessly onstage. *It’s such a pity that you’ve already lost when I haven’t even gotten the chance to learn enough from you.*

He Qingfeng’s jaw dropped at Han Jingru’s easy win. He quickly regained his composure and left the place.

The fact that even he could not discern Han Jingru's moves appeased him.

He could not tell how far Han Jingru could go. However, it was clear as day to him that Han Jingru's presence would invigorate Apocalypse.

Ever since the conflict between the Three Halls and Four Gates, the two heads had seldom visited each other. The last time Mr. Yi went to the Three Halls was because of the thing at Restricted Area.

However, He Qingfeng had appeared at Four Gates this time because of Han Jingru.

"He Qingfeng, I would never have expected to see you here," Mr. Yi smiled as he said.

He Qingfeng had a stern face on. It was not his intention to come here. However, he knew he had to.

"Mr. Yi, who is Han Jingru? How could an elite like him exist in the mundane world?" He Qingfeng questioned Mr. Yi because he knew for a fact that elites at Apocalypse were



fundamentally different from elites in the mundane world. They had Apocalypse's environment and training method to thank for. People who undertook martial arts training at Apocalypse could expect to surpass their own limits. This concerned another secret of Apocalypse, in which it was impossible for any elite of the mundane world to surpass an elite of Apocalypse. It was an established fact.

However, Han Jingru had proved himself to be the exception, and He Qingfeng was puzzled.

“Before coming to Apocalypse, he was not this strong. However, even I had not expected that he would make such great strides of improvement,” Mr. Yi explained. He could not seem to explain the exceptional phenomenon either. His best guess was that the environment at Apocalypse had changed Han Jingru's physical attributes, enabling him to become stronger in a much shorter time. However, even Mr. Yi could not begin to fathom the true reason behind this.

“Come to think of it, he's only at Silver rank. There is no way for him to tap into Apocalypse's

power. In that case, how could he have improved so fast?" He Qingfeng asked.

Other than the Restricted Area, the Apocalypse's energy was another well-kept secret of Apocalypse.

At the very core of Apocalypse, it was surrounded by a mysterious pool of energy. One's body would undergo major changes when training under its influence. After attaining a certain level, one could even feel the spiritual energy flowing within one's body. However, even Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng could not seem to pinpoint and define the energy.

Legend had it that there existed an ultimate fighter of Apocalypse, and she was the true ruler of Apocalypse. However, Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng knew for a fact that it was not just a legend. Apocalypse's true ruler resided in a remote mountain cave. It was uncertain whether she was alive or dead. However, they were positive that the cave where she resided was full of Apocalypse's secrets, and maybe even the key to the definition of Apocalypse's energy.

Nevertheless, Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng had been cracking their brains to decipher the key to the obscure place but to no avail.

“I have the same question in mind. But since we’re not going to be able to figure this out any time soon, why don’t we just go along with it? It’s a good thing for Apocalypse that Han Jingru is strong. Why should we be concerned?” Mr. Yi asked.

He Qingfeng breathed in deeply after listening to Mr. Yi. Then, he shot a glance at Mr. Yi’s assistant.

The assistant was sensible enough to know what He Qingfeng meant and left immediately.

“Mr. Yi, do you think it is possible for Han Jingru to enter Fu Yao’s residence?” Even though there was nobody around, He Qingfeng still took the trouble to whisper those words to Mr. Yi. Fu Yao was the ultimate fighter’s name.

Mr. Yi tensed at He Qingfeng’s question. Fu Yao’s residence was full of Apocalypse’s secrets.

If they could somehow have access to it, Apocalypse's existence would make so much more sense to all of them. What was more, they could finally begin to understand Apocalypse's energy.

“Do you want to let him try?” Mr. Yi asked.

Fu Yao's existence had always been a myth as Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng had always kept it a secret from everyone else. Asking Han Jingru to try accessing Fu Yao's residence would mean that they would have to disclose and acknowledge the Ultimate Fighter's existence to Han Jingru.

“I think he's really something else. Maybe he could really invigorate and change Apocalypse for the better. Besides, the dawning of the second world is inevitable, and you and I both know that Apocalypse is not strong enough to deal with it right now. We have to accommodate for the everchanging circumstances,” He Qingfeng commented.

Mr. Yi was taken aback by He Qingfeng's remarks. He could have understood where He Qingfeng was coming from if Han Jingru were from Three Halls. However, it was not the case at all. Han Jingru belonged in the Four Gates. The fact that He Qingfeng could make those remarks meant that he was willing to forgo previous grudges and bad blood between them for the bigger picture at Apocalypse.

Of course, Mr. Yi could not be certain if he harbored any other intentions. Having said that, Mr. Yi still thought that his suggestion was a viable option.

Apocalypse was in a dire need of a revamp, and all secrets of Apocalypse were in Fu Yao's residence. Once they had access to it, Apocalypse could become much stronger.

"Since you think it's a viable option, we should let him try before he enters Devil's Cave," Mr. Yi said.

"Mr. Yi, I shall head back and await your news. Let me know when you've made the necessary

arrangements,” He Qingfeng said as he nodded.

“No problem.”

Mr. Yi’s expression stiffened after He Qingfeng left.

The thought of letting Han Jingru access Fu Yao’s residence had never crossed his mind. If it were not for He Qingfeng, he would have never considered it an option. It was not surprising since only the head of the Three Halls and Four Gates knew about Fu Yao.

Moreover, he had never considered the idea of Han Jingru being the person who would be able to access Fu Yao’s residence.

Mr. Yi’s assistant came back after He Qingfeng took his leave. Noticing that his boss was deep in thought, he asked, “Mr. Yi, what is up He Qingfeng’s sleeves this time?”

Mr. Yi heaved a long sigh. “This time I don’t think he harbors any malicious intention, especially since this concerns Apocalypse’s

future. He Xiaoxiao and himself are not spared from this as well. I don't think that he would act hastily in view of this."

"What could possibly be so serious? Are we losing control of the Restricted Area?" The assistant's face sank. *If that was the case, then we'd be doomed.*

"It has nothing to do with the Restricted Area." Mr. Yi shook his head.

"What is it then?"

"Do you really want to know?" Mr. Yi smiled as he glanced at his assistant.

The assistant noticed his boss's icy gaze and hurriedly shook his head. "No, not really."

Apocalypse had a lot of secrets. Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng who were in the upper echelons surely knew a lot about it. His assistant was well aware of this fact. However, he also understood that he was not in the position to nose around.

“I’m going to see Han Jingru. You’re going to stay right here,” Mr. Yi ordered.

Han Jingru had only used half a month to accelerate his ranking at Apocalypse. He was only short of a rank to enter the upper echelons. His great strides had befuddled everyone at Apocalypse, and they had long thrown the Chosen One, Lin Tong, to the back of their minds. To them, Han Jingru was the rising star, and he was the only one who could accomplish such an impossible feat.

Gong Tian and figures of similar stations had expressed their utmost admiration of Han Jingru. There were even people who took pride in having met the rising star. Han Jingru had far surpassed Lin Tong in terms of reputation and status.

“Apocalypse’s ranking is really something else. With each level up, the better the living environment. I wonder how it is with the Platinum rank.” Han Jingru could not help but be amazed by Apocalypse’s ranking system. The ranking basically dictated what kind of treatment one would receive at Apocalypse, and it made a



night and day difference.

“Mr. Han, you’re going to become a Platinum soon. So, you’ll find out soon enough,” Jiang Yingying smiled as she said.

Han Jingru had encountered no considerable obstacle in his Qualifying Tournament. However, it did not mean that he could take the Devil’s Cave’s challenge lightly since it could technically kill him. After all, no one had made it out alive from the Devil’s Cave in the past ten years.

“The Devil’s Cave challenge is not easy, and I shouldn’t take it lightly,” Han Jingru commented.

“Mr. Han, I’d have to admit the place sounds scary, but it’s still under Apocalypse’s jurisdiction, right? Would Apocalypse really endanger their own elites? Is it really impossible for Apocalypse to control everything that happens within the Devil’s Cave?” Jiang Yingying furrowed her brows as she asked.

“I should suppose so. Gold rank fighters are important as the middle-rank fighters of

Apocalypse. I suppose Apocalypse would not let its backbones get killed in the Devil's Cave. So, this is enough to indicate that the Three Halls and Four Gates are unable to control what happens within Devil's Cave." He had considered the possibility that Jiang Yingying poised. Hence, he came to the careful conclusion the Devil's Cave challenge was not one to be taken lightly.

Even the heads of the Four Gates and Three Halls, Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng, could not control Devil's Cave which was within Apocalypse's jurisdiction. This fact alone was the telltale sign that Devil's Cave was not under Apocalypse's control, despite it being part of Apocalypse.

"Your assumptions are correct. Apocalypse could not control Devil's Cave." Mr. Yi's voice could be heard behind them.

Ever since Han Jingru came to Apocalypse, the old man had never appeared before him. It was as if the old man had left him to fend for himself at Apocalypse. *How dare he claim to be Han Xiang's god grandfather? He does not even care whether I live or die.*

“Well, well. Who do we have here?” Han Jingru mocked.

Even though others knew Han Jingru as his disciple, Mr. Yi had never actually taken Han Jingru as his disciple. What was more, even though he was the head of the Four Gates, he was helpless before Han Jingru.

“You are my disciple in the eyes of others after all. Could you at least show me some courtesy?”

“I’m afraid it’s not possible in this life. Why don’t you anticipate the courtesy in your next life instead?” Han Jingru smiled.

“Do you believe in reincarnation?” Mr. Yi tilted his brows and asked.

He shook his head with resolution. As an atheist, reincarnation was an absurd concept. *One would just turn into a pile of skeletons after dying.*

“Are you taking me to the Devil’s Cave?”

Mr. Yi glanced at Jiang Yingying. He was only

planning on letting Han Jingru know about Fu Yao. He did not welcome her presence.

Han Jingru furrowed his brows. He was well aware of what Mr. Yi meant when the latter shot a glance at Jiang Yingying. However, he was curious as to what the old man had to say that even Jiang Yingying's presence would be frowned upon.

“Yingying, why don't you head back to your room and rest first?” Han Jingru said.

“Okay,” she nodded and left.

After making sure that there was no one around, Mr. Yi walked over to Han Jingru's side and said in a low voice, “Before you go to Devil's Cave, I'd like to take you someplace first.”

“Why are you being all mysterious? Are you going to finally let me in on Apocalypse’s secret?” Han Jingru was curious.

“This is another matter altogether. Only He Qingfeng and I know about this.” Mr. Yi said.

*Only he and He Qingfeng know about it in the whole Apocalypse? Wow.*

Han Jingru was quite surprised at the revelation. *How many secrets do Apocalypse actually have? This whole place is practically shrouded in mystery.*

“Okay, enlighten me.” Han Jingru put up a nonchalant front but was actually dying to know.

“Have you ever heard the legend about Apocalypse’s Ultimate Fighter?”

*Apocalypse’s Ultimate Fighter?*

Han Jingru had heard Fang Zhan talking about it before. However, he did not construe it as a secret since practically everyone at Apocalypse knew

about this, even the lowly-ranked Bronzes.

“Mr. Yi, are you that bored that you’re bluffing me right now? A lot of the Bronze ranks know about this too, duh,” Han Jingru sneered.

“This is nothing more than a legend to them. What I want to tell you is that this person actually exists, and only He Qingfeng and I know where she resides. However, nobody knows whether she’s still alive or dead,” Mr. Yi explained.

“Well, from what I’ve heard, this Ultimate Fighter legend had been going around for ages. How could she still be alive?” Han Jingru said.

“This would be subject to your verification.”

“Me?” Han Jingru widened his eyes in disbelief at Mr. Yi. “And how do you expect me to verify it? I don’t suppose you expect me to go flip the death note and see if there’s her name on it?”

“He Qingfeng and I have tried a myriad of ways to access her residence but to no avail. However, we think you might have a shot there,” Mr. Yi

said.

“So you’re here to bring me to that place?”

“You’re right,” Mr. Yi paused for a moment before saying, “Her residence might reveal a lot about Apocalypse. If you could somehow access it, Apocalypse will probably undergo major changes. I’ve never considered this possibility. However, after He Qingfeng has brought it up, I think it might work.”

“Since the two of you knew about this place, and have tried a myriad of ways to access it but to no avail, what makes the two of you think that I might have a shot at it?” Han Jingru shook his head. He did not have the confidence to attempt something that even Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng had failed to do.

“Give it a try. Who knows you might make it.” Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng were just trying their luck. They were not expecting Han Jingru to succeed in this since they were just giving it a try. After all, they expected Fu Yao’s residence to reveal much of Apocalypse’s secrets, and Han

Jingru indeed showcased extraordinary capabilities.

“Sure. I could give it a try. When are we going?”

“Tomorrow, but you cannot tell anyone about this. Not even Jiang Yingying,” Mr. Yi reminded him.

He tapped on the old man’s shoulder and said, “Don’t worry, old man. I’m a really tight-lipped person.”

“Couldn’t you just call me Master?” Mr. Yi asked in a rather helpless manner.

Han Jingru turned around to leave as his hand supported the back of his neck and replied impassively, “Maybe I’d consider that in my next life.”

Mr. Yi shook his head and sighed. If it were other people, they would have rushed to kneel before him and offered to serve him tea. *Why is it so difficult for him to call me Master?*



Han Jingru ruminated over Mr. Yi's words. The legendary Ultimate Fighter was rumored to tower over Apocalypse back then. Besides, Mr. Yi had mentioned that her residence carried a lot of Apocalypse's secrets. He could not help but be curious about her. *What kind of person is she that she could shoulder this kind of responsibility, and why does nobody seem to know whether she's dead or alive?*

Han Jingru lost sleep as he tossed and turned for the whole night. However, he was still bright and breezy the next day.

Mr. Yi met up with Han Jingru early in the morning the next day. The two of them headed toward the back of the mountain, and they bumped into He Qingfeng on the way.

He Qingfeng was pestered by He Xiaoxiao, and was only rid of her after strenuous effort.

He Xiaoxiao's confidence was practically shattered as she was overshadowed by Han Jingru. She could not seem to accept the fact that she no longer had the right to be arrogant in front

of him again like she used to. He Xiaoxiao had even developed a fear of Han Jingru, and avoided meeting him at all costs.

“I was really impressed by your performance at the Qualifying Tournament,” He Qingfeng said to Han Jingru. *What a shame that he’s not in Three Halls. Now I don’t even care if Lin Tong wants to join Three Halls. He is nothing compared to Han Jingru. So much for being the Chosen One.*

“Master He, you really flatter me. I got lucky,” Han Jingru smiled.

“Too much humbleness could really make you look like a hypocrite. Young man, you should take more pride in yourself,” He Qingfeng replied.

“Well, then I have to be honest with you, Master He. I really do not care for the Qualifying Tournament. I think it’s really just a stepping stone for me to enter Devil’s Cave,” Han Jingru replied impassively.

He Qingfeng was stumped. *This young man is quite cocky when he gets*

*the chance.* he Qualifying Tournament. However, he believed that Han Jingru could afford to be cocky. Not everybody could defeat a Gold-rank fighter that easily.

Besides, not only did he accomplish it, even his maid had done it.

“Your maid is quite skillful too. I really wonder how talented the two of you actually are,” He Qingfeng commented.

*My maid?*

Han Jingru was slightly displeased. “Jiang Yingying is not my maid. She’s my sister. I hope Master He could show her some respect.”

He Qingfeng would have been incensed if it were another person uttering these words to him. However, in face of Han Jingru, somehow he could keep his cool.

One could have his say at Apocalypse as long as one was strong enough. *So what if he was the head of the Three Halls?*

Mr. Yi was stifling his laughs at the side. *I thought I would never live to see He Qingfeng suffer a humiliation like this. So it's not only me.*

Han Jingru had never known humility ever since he came to Apocalypse. He was a whole new person compared to when he was at Yun City.

However, it would not be difficult to discern these changes. He used to lay low because there were things that he had to consider. However, after coming to Apocalypse, where one earned one's respect through own capability, he just did not have to live his life in fear of others anymore.



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