

The three of them traveled and finally reached their destination.

Standing before Han Jingru was a rocky mountain peak where not even the grass could survive or grow.

“Is this it? Where’s the house?” asked Han Jingru curiously as he turned to Mr. Yi. *It doesn’t look like anyone lived here.*

“Follow me,” instructed Mr. Yi grimly. He had always been respectful and serious when he traveled to that place. It was understandable that his childish side and smiles were gone, though. After all, the most powerful fighter of Apocalypse lived there.

Han Jingru only noticed some strange details when he was standing in front of the mountain wall. The rocks looked like they were formed naturally and had uneven shapes, but a small opening at the side formed a straight line. It was almost like the entire thing was a door.

“Check this out. What does this look like?” asked

Mr. Yi as he pointed at a random spot on the wall.

“That’s a palm print,” answered Han Jingru without pausing. It was obviously a palm print and a rather small one at that. *It’s almost as if a woman left her print there.*

“Is the expert a woman?” asked Han Jingru suspiciously.

“The name’s Fu Yao. She’s probably a woman, but neither He Qingfeng nor I can be certain about it,” replied Mr. Yi.

*Fu Yao? The name does suggest that the expert is a woman, and her name sounds like that of a goddess. I guess she was ridiculously stunning when she was alive. Otherwise, it would be such a disappointment and a strong contrast to her name.*

“This is the entrance. As for the palm print, well, that is probably the key to opening the door. Both Mr. Yi and I tried to trigger a reaction, but nothing ever happens,” shared He Qingfeng.

Han Jingru lifted his hand and compared his palm against the palm print. It was obvious, even to the naked eye, that his hand was not a match. *I guess only Fu Yao can open the door.*

“Looks like we wasted a trip today. This palm print isn’t even in my size. There’s no way I can open it,” said Han Jingru.

The difference was rather obvious, especially when the two palms were compared against one another. Still, Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng only brought Han Jingru over to try it out. They weren’t actually holding out much hope or anything.

“Let’s try it out, anyway. We’ve come all the way, after all,” suggested Mr. Yi.

Han Jingru shrugged and replied, “Okay, but don’t put the blame on me if it doesn’t work.”

Both Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng weren’t anticipating anything, but they still looked nervous when Han Jingru reached out. Perhaps, deep down, they were praying for a miracle.

Han Jingru noticed that the two men didn't just change their expressions. Even their breathing became uneven! That got Han Jingru to smirk, and he retracted his hand at the last minute before teasing, "Look at you both. What are you so excited about? Let's take a deep breath and calm down. Don't make everything seem so grim."

Mr. Yi turned speechless. *This brat is too good at teasing others.* thought Mr. Yi before he snapped, "Shut up and hurry!"

He Qingfeng forced a smile on his face and chimed in, "Stop messing with us, Han Jingru. Hurry up!"

Han Jingru sighed. He was extremely reluctant when he reached out and put his palm on the print.

Han Jingru didn't hold out for much hope at the beginning, but he suddenly felt the mountain wall trembling. That got his expression to change sharply.

*No f\*cking way! Am I really opening the door?*

The trembling mountain wall got Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng equally excited, and their hearts thumped wild.

Both of them tried to put their palms on the print but nothing ever happened. Yet Han Jingru was able to trigger such a huge reaction.

“It’s opening! It’s freaking opening!” shrieked He Qingfeng in excitement.

Mr. Yi couldn’t help clenching his fist in excitement. His face was blushing red from happiness as well. *If Han Jingru really can open the door, then the secrets hidden within will finally be revealed!*

“How is it, Han Jingru? What does it feel like?” asked Mr. Yi eagerly.

Han Jingru frowned. There was no reaction other than the previous trembling. The door never opened, either. *What’s going on?*

“I don’t feel anything. It just trembled for a moment there,” replied Han Jingru.

“How is that possible? How can it simply budge for a second and do nothing else?” blurted He Qingfeng. He refused to believe the truth he saw with his own eyes. However, the door still showed no sign of opening.

And then it happened. The door suddenly looked like an illusion, and waves of aura rippled on it. It was as if it was a lake that had ripples on it because someone recently tossed a stone into it.

The sudden reaction got Han Jingru to back away instinctively. He Qingfeng, on the other hand, couldn't help stepping forward.

“It's open. It's really open!” exclaimed He Qingfeng. He was so excited that he didn't even know what to do. His first instinct was to run towards the door and enter the place.

“He Qingfeng,” reminded Mr. Yi loudly to stop He Qingfeng. The former had realized what the latter was planning to do.

However, He Qingfeng never stopped running. He even ran faster towards the door, like he was

worried about Mr. Yi catching up and stopping him.

The second He Qingfeng touched the rippling aura, a potent force stopped him and reacted strongly and poorly to his presence. It tossed He Qingfeng away and got the man to spiral backward like a kite with a broken string.

He Qingfeng vomited blood after he fell hard onto the ground. The man was obviously wounded.

“How can it be? The door is open. Why can’t I enter?” demanded He Qingfeng angrily.

Mr. Yi frowned with anger exuding between his brows. He walked to He Qingfeng and accused, “Is this why you brought Han Jingru over to let him try opening the door? Are you that eager? Or do you want to learn all the secrets offered within and keep it to yourself?”

He Qingfeng glared at Mr. Yi and scoffed, “Oh, like you don’t want that? Aren’t you also here because you want to learn the secrets within and

become stronger?”

Mr. Yi finally figured out what He Qingfeng's true intentions were after he heard those words. *He only wants to learn the secrets to become stronger. This was never about changing Apocalypse.*

“He Qingfeng, stop assuming that I think like you. Han Jingru is the one who opened the door, and he is the only one worthy of entering. I won't stop you if you want to try entering again, though,” said Mr. Yi.

He Qingfeng gritted his teeth. He was wounded, and the result was already clear as day. He couldn't get past the open door, and it wouldn't matter if he tried a second time. It would just worsen his wounds. *I can't get in there.*

He Qingfeng turned to Han Jingru. The former's eyes were shooting daggers when he commanded, “Take everything you can out of that place, punk, and give it to me. Also, you must share everything you see and learn in there.”



Han Jingru laughed in disdain. He found He Qingfeng's commanding tone hilarious.

“Why should I listen to you? He Qingfeng, you may be the head of the Third Hall, but you have no authority over me. You certainly don't get to command me,” said Han Jingru.

As the head of the Three Halls, He Qingfeng had no authority over the members of the Four Gates. However, the benefit involved was too great, and He Qingfeng no longer cared about politics. He threatened, “You're right. I do not have any authority to command you whatsoever. That being said, you must do as I ask if you want to keep your family safe.”

Han Jingru's expression turned cruel instantly. He loathed it when others threatened Su Yimo and Han Xiang to force his hands.

Han Jingru strolled to He Qingfeng's side and said evilly, “Now that you're wounded. I can kill you easily, and there is nothing you can do about it.”

He Qingfeng wasn't the only one frightened when those words were uttered. Even Mr. Yi, who had been standing at the side, looked terrified.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Killing was forbidden within Apocalypse, and Han Jingru was going to kill the head of the Three Halls, He Qingfeng.

Mr. Yi rushed to Han Jingru's side. The former placed his hand on the latter's shoulder and warned grimly, "Don't act impulsively, Han Jingru."

Han Jingru didn't bother turning to Mr. Yi. With his eyes exuding murderous aura, Han Jingru glared at He Qingfeng and claimed, "Threatening my family to get to me... That is the biggest mistake you have ever made."

As the head of the Three Halls, it had been years since He Qingfeng last experienced fear. His position and influence were grand, and his fighting skills were top-notch. That made it so that very few people could threaten him.

At that moment, however, He Qingfeng was trembling in immense fear. That was especially true when he saw the murderous intent glowing in Han Jingru's eyes. It even got him to back away instinctively.

*This young man... He actually made me feel like moving away!*

“I am the head of the Three Halls! Do you really think you can kill me?” growled He Qingfeng through gritted teeth.

“Given your current condition, how is it not ridiculously easy for me to murder you?” refuted Han Jingru.

He Qingfeng’s impulsive move from earlier had left him in a grave situation. He was weakened, and Han Jingru was a pretty skilled fighter. Hence, it was entirely possible for Han Jingru to kill He Qingfeng. Fortunately, Mr. Yi was present, and He Qingfeng firmly believed that Mr. Yi wouldn’t let something like that happen.

“Mr. Yi, that is a member of Four Gates, which is under your command. You should know what the consequences of killing me are. The Three Halls and Four Gates will become enemies, and Apocalypse will be torn apart,” reminded He Qingfeng.

Mr. Yi was aware of all that as well. That was why he rushed over to stop Han Jingru in the first place.

The aftereffects would be grave if Apocalypse falls into an internal turmoil that could not be reversed. *The second world finally shows signs of recuperation. It would be bad for the entire world if a civil war breaks out now!*

“Han Jingru, we can’t afford to let Apocalypse fall apart at a time like this. The problem caused by this issue will be massive, and it will extend to your family and affect them as well,” said Mr. Yi.

Han Jingru frowned. *What does Apocalypse’s civil war have anything to do with Su Yimo and Han Xiang?*

“How will that affect them?” asked Han Jingru.

Mr. Yi took a deep breath and explained, “You’ll know once you go through the Devil’s Cave. You’ll also learn the true purpose of Apocalypse. Trust me. I am not lying about this.”

Han Jingru glared once more at He Qingfeng before turning around and walking towards the open door.

He Qingfeng sighed a breath of relief. That was when he realized that he was covered in sweat. He never thought that a mere Gold-rank fighter could make him feel this way.

He Qingfeng's injuries were part of the reason he was sweating, but he knew that he also sweated due to Han Jingru's strength and threat. *Han Jingru hadn't gone through the tests offered by the Devil's Cave, but his strength is obviously that of a Platinum-rank fighter. Darn it! Why isn't a skilled fighter like this a member of the Three Halls?*

“Mr. Yi, as I recall, neither one of you knows if Fu Yao is still alive, right?” asked Han Jingru as he stood in front of the door.

Mr. Yi nodded. There had never been any proof of that. Fu Yao used to be nothing more than a myth, and Mr. Yi only knew where she lived because the previous head of the Four Gates said

so.

“Yes, that is true, but logically, she should be dead,” shared Mr. Yi.

“Logic? What is the probability of illogical and unnatural things happening within Apocalypse?” asked Han Jingru again.

*The probability of illogical and unnatural things happening?*

Mr. Yi couldn't be certain of that because the secrets that Apocalypse kept were already out of the norm. Hence, it was ill-advised to deduce or analyze Apocalypse's matters logically. The second world, for instance, was a great example. Most weren't even aware of its existence.

“Very likely,” replied Mr. Yi.

Han Jingru grinned and commented, “Well, then let's pray that she doesn't kick me out for barging into her room.”

After joking about it, Han Jingru took a step

forward and entered via the open door.

That scene got Mr. Yi's heart to thump faster. It had been years. Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng experimented countless ways, but they could never get in. Han Jingru, on the other hand, marched right in like it was nothing. That proved that Han Jingru was someone special and that he could change Apocalypse.

Whether that change could restore Apocalypse to its former glory... Well, that was what Mr. Yi was most nervous about because the change in the second world meant that Apocalypse direly needed to strengthen itself.

“You must make him tell me everything he learned after he exits, Mr. Yi. The Four Gates cannot keep all the secrets to itself,” said the wounded He Qingfeng, who had walked to Mr. Yi's side.

“Only selfish individuals would have selfish thoughts like that. I'm guessing you would not share anything with me if you were the one who had gone in,” replied Mr. Yi calmly.



He Qingfeng never thought about things that way. However, when Mr. Yi pointed it out, He Qingfeng realized that his first reaction would be to keep everything to himself.

Naturally, He Qingfeng would never admit to that.

“The secret determines whether Apocalypse can strengthen itself, so I will never act so selfishly. Strengthening myself is not sufficient to deal with the threat to the second world,” said He Qingfeng.

Mr. Yi smiled. He had known He Qingfeng for years, and the former knew what kind of man the latter was. *His words are not trustworthy at all.*

“It’s up to him to decide if he wants to share its secret with us. Even I can’t influence him one way or another,” informed Mr. Yi.

“What is that supposed to mean?” demanded He Qingfeng through gritted teeth. He simply couldn’t accept that fact. *Mr. Yi is obviously going to keep it all to himself.*

“The meaning is clear. In fact, I can’t possibly make it clearer than I already have. Also, allow me to give you some advice. Never threaten his family because he would do anything for them, and you will die if you even think about crossing that line. I pray that you will keep this advice in mind,” said Mr. Yi.

Past the open door, Han Jingru was flabbergasted by everything he saw.

The room wasn’t big, but it had a lot of luxurious pieces of jewelry that shone brightly and looked like they were worth fortunes. The most astounding bit, however, was that a woman with long hair was standing right in front of him. She had her back to him, but her figure still got Han Jingru bewildered.

*Her figure itself is so astonishing. She must have the face of a beautiful goddess as well.*

Han Jingru had suspected that Fu Yao might still be alive, but he thought that the probability was low. After all, it was not an easy feat for a human being to live over a hundred years.

“Are you Fu Yao?” asked Han Jingru cautiously.

No one responded. The figure in front of him remained seated in the same position, and she never budged.

*Is she asleep?*

With curiosity burning in his heart, Han Jingru walked around to face Fu Yao.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When Han Jingru saw Fu Yao's face, extreme terror donned his face, and he instinctively stumbled a few steps backward. He only stopped backing away when he hit the wall.

*Fu Yao! She's Fu Yao!*

Han Jingru's mind felt like it was on the verge of exploding.

*This is obviously Su Yimo. How is she Fu Yao?*

Fu Yao looked like Su Yimo's doppelganger, and it was as if they were the same.

Just then, Fu Yao's face withered so quickly that even the naked eye could detect it. It seemed that the internal condition within the grave had changed due to Han Jingru's arrival. That change caused the perfectly preserved corpse to lose its moisture.

"N-no!" shouted Han Jingru fearfully. He wanted to stop the corpse's decay, but he didn't know how or what he could do. Hence, he ended up just standing there and being nervous the entire time.

Han Jingru felt like he was watching Su Yimo die of old age when he saw Fu Yao turn skeletal. His heart ached so much that he couldn't breathe.

“How could this be? How could this be?”  
muttered Han Jingru as he paced around like he had gone nuts.

*Why does Fu Yao look identical to Su Yimo?*

There were many people who looked similar to one another in that world, but to be that identical was rare, and Han Jingru was certain that it couldn't have been a coincidence.

Fu Yao had turned skeletal by that time, and her face was no longer discernible, so she didn't look like Su Yimo anymore. Unfortunately, Han Jingru still felt like he was looking at Su Yimo.

*Fu Yao... Su Yimo... What is going on here?*

Han Jingru's mind was rattled as he sat on the floor in a rather disheveled state.

He couldn't figure out how the two of them were

connected to one another, but he was certain that Fu Yao and Su Yimo were linked.

*Is Su Yimo the reincarnation of Fu Yao?*

Mr. Yi once asked Han Jingru if he believed in reincarnations.

At the time, Han Jingru's response was firm because he was a non-believer, and reincarnation was nothing but a joke to him.

Given what he just saw with his own eyes, could he still say the same thing? What other explanation would there be?

*Are Fu Yao and Su Yimo the same person? Is that even possible?*

Han Jingru had his hands on his head, and he felt a headache ambushing him.

On the other side of the door, He Qingfeng became more and more nervous as time passed by.

“Why isn’t he out yet? Is that punk hiding all the treasures away?” said He Qingfeng impatiently.

“Don’t judge others based on your own greed. What makes you think that Han Jingru will ever do something like that? Besides, we don’t even know if there is anything inside,” complained Mr. Yi. Han Jingru was a member of the Four Gates, after all, and He Qingfeng’s insult was tarnishing the Four Gates’ noble reputation.

“How could Fu Yao’s resting place be empty or void of treasure? The content in there is Apocalypse’s top secret,” refuted He Qingfeng.

“So what if that is the case? It’s not like you can get in or obtain it, anyway. Han Jingru is the only one who could enter the place. That proved that everything is destined to happen this way. As such, the content within should belong to him, and he can do whatever he pleases with it,” said Mr. Yi.

He Qingfeng clenched his fists immediately. *Letting Han Jingru keep everything? That will never happen! I will commit murder and steal the treasure, if that is what it*

*takes.*

Mr. Yi sensed He Qingfeng's murderous aura. The former reminded, "Have you forgotten that you're wounded? Besides, I'm standing right here, and you will not have the opportunity to hurt him."

He Qingfeng reluctantly loosened his fist and suppressed his murderous intent. He knew that he was in no shape to fight Mr. Yi and Han Jingru, but he wasn't going to give up either.

He Qingfeng was determined to find an opportunity to take away everything Han Jingru got out of the cave.

At the time, Han Jingru was still in a daze. He was too preoccupied to care about the treasure surrounding him. All he could think about was how Fu Yao and Su Yimo were connected, and wondered why they looked identical.

"Perhaps I really should believe in reincarnation. Maybe Yimo's previous life is Fu Yao..." murmured Han Jingru after he was stunned for a



while.

He later walked to Fu Yao's skeleton. The bones were creepy and could cause goosebumps on anyone, but Han Jingru's eyes remained loving. It was as if he was staring at Su Yimo.

Fu Yao's skeletal chest had an item that looked like a white pearl. It was shining brightly, and when Han Jingru held it in his palm, he could feel a comfortable sense of warmth exuding from it.

"If Yimo truly is your reincarnation, then this should be hers," murmured Han Jingru.

After keeping the pearl away, Han Jingru shifted his attention to the other treasures.

Most of the items there looked luxurious and were worth fortunes, but at the end of the day, they were just antiques. They held no other value, and Apocalypse had no use for money, so it didn't mean much.

Still, Han Jingru felt compelled to search the place since Mr. Yi had already informed him that

Apocalypse's secrets might be hidden there.

It took him some time, but Han Jingru eventually found a book. It was written by hand, and browsing two pages was enough to flabbergast Han Jingru.

Apocalypse's Core Area was engulfed in an energy field known as Yan Huang, and if a person trained within that zone, that person's biological make-up would change. It could turn that person stronger.

That was similar to the cultivation for immortality and the cultivation for longevity that Han Jingru had heard about before. The only difference was, the book never mentioned the ascension of stages and only focused on the changes to the human body. Naturally, it was possible that Fu Yao only knew about Yan Huang and was unaware of the cultivations. There was also the possibility that Yan Huang could only trigger the changes recorded in the book. Perhaps it was just a coincidence for those changes to sound similar to the arts of cultivation.

Despite the power that Yan Huang might offer, Han Jingru was still more curious about the connection between Fu Yao and Su Yimo.

Before anyone knew it, the night had fallen. He Qingfeng was getting more restless and had lost all faith. If the aura around the open door wasn't that powerful, he would've rushed over a second time.

The moon was smiling in the sky when Han Jingru suddenly exited.

He Qingfeng barred Han Jingru's path immediately and growled, "Show us everything you brought out with you or you can forget about leaving!"

After resting for an entire day, He Qingfeng's wounds had obviously turned for the better. Hence, he was acting even more aggressively when facing Han Jingru.

Han Jingru tossed the book over and said, "This is what I found in there. Go ahead and take it if you like."

*This is but a stupid book!*

He Qingfeng's expression instantly turned evil and distorted. "Han Jingru, you can't fool me with this shit! I know that place held tons of Apocalypse's treasure."

"It does contain tons of priceless antiques, but how are those of any use to you? This book revealed the secret behind Apocalypse's Core Area and its energy fields. I'll keep it if you don't want it," said Han Jingru before he walked over to pick the book up.

He Qingfeng was faster, though. *This held the secrets to Apocalypse's Core Area, and Han Jingru cannot have it.*



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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He Qingfeng wasn't satisfied even after he got the book. He refused to believe that Han Jingru only got that one item out of there.

“Han Jingru, it's easy to prove whether you have taken any other item with you. Strip naked in front of me, and I'll believe you,” said He Qingfeng.

Han Jingru scoffed. *This old fart really is pushing it.* It's true that Han Jingru also had a pearl with him, but that item might have something to do with Su Yimo, so Han Jingru would never hand it over to He Qingfeng.

Moreover, Han Jingru would not strip naked to prove his innocence whatsoever, because there was never a need for that.

“He Qingfeng, I can enter and leave as I please, so why would I even need to take anything out of it? Besides, the most valuable item is already with you. You are welcome to go in and check it out for yourself if you'd like,” sneered Han Jingru.

If He Qingfeng could actually enter the place, he wouldn't be waiting the entire time. Han Jingru's words basically hit He Qingfeng's weakest point.

He Qingfeng was too greedy and eager to fight, so he said, "I won't hold any grudges against you or complain if you take everything out of there."

"You are too petty and won't believe me, even if I take everything out of there. You'll still assume that I left the best treasures in there, so what's the point?" refuted Han Jingru.

Han Jingru's diss rendered He Qingfeng speechless. It was true that He Qingfeng would not trust Han Jingru easily. It wouldn't matter if Han Jingru emptied the place. He Qingfeng would still suspect that Han Jingru had hidden some treasures.

"I am leaving. If you insist on stopping me, then so be it," said Han Jingru, who walked away as soon as he finished speaking.

He Qingfeng took a step forward, but paused immediately after.

There was no saying whether He Qingfeng could stop Han Jingru physically, and even if he could, there was no point in doing that. Mr. Yi was standing right there and would not let him do as he pleased.

“Just be content, He Qingfeng. You won’t even have the book if it wasn’t for him, so why are you still pushing?” said Mr. Yi.

He Qingfeng replied through gritted teeth. “He is a member of Four Gates, which is under your command. Naturally, you won’t need to push him because he can sneak around and steal it for you when no one is watching.”

“The Four Gates will never do something so despicable. Feel free to have your men guard the place if you’re that worried,” scoffed Mr. Yi.

“Oh, I will definitely post some guards here. I refuse to let you keep all the treasure to yourself,” said He Qingfeng.

Mr. Yi grinned exasperatedly. *He Qingfeng may be the head of the Three Halls, but he is so petty that he showed no grace.*

“You’re not planning on keeping the content of the book to yourself, are you?” asked Mr. Yi.

He Qingfeng instinctively held the book closer to him. It was as if he was worried about Mr. Yi stealing it.

“Naturally, I will hand it over to you once I finish reading it,” informed He Qingfeng.

“Sure, I’m not in a hurry, so take your time reading it,” said Mr. Yi before he left as well.

He Qingfeng didn’t expect Mr. Yi to leave just like that. *Is he really not worried about me keeping it to myself?*

“Do you really think I’d buy the nonchalant and graceful act you put on, you old fart?” mumbled He Qingfeng after Mr. Yi left.

Han Jingru returned to his place in the Gold-rank domain. The moon was sky high and indicating how late it was, but Han Jingru wasn’t sleepy at



all.

*Fu Yao... Su Yimo...*

Han Jingru thought that there had to be a connection between the two of them. It might actually be as wild as his theory of how Fu Yao was Su Yimo's past life.

Han Jingru couldn't help being curious as he gazed at that pearl. *Will Su Yimo suddenly remember everything from her past life if I give her this pearl?*

That thought frightened Han Jingru like nothing before. He worried that Su Yimo would change after that, and things beyond his wildest imagination would happen. It would be too late for him to regret his decision once the irreversible event took place.

Han Jingru didn't get a wink that night, but he still got up early the next morning.

Jiang Yingying was used to waking up early in the morning and training hard. She was aware of

the difference in strength between her and Han Jingru, and she knew that there was a good chance that she would never beat Han Jingru. Still, she wanted to work hard and try to minimize the difference between them as much as possible.

“Yingying, do you believe in reincarnations?” asked Han Jingru.

“Yep,” replied Jiang Yingying, without much thought. She even put a pause to her training.

“Why?” asked Han Jingru suspiciously when he heard how certain Jiang Yingying was.

“I must’ve done a lot of good deeds in my past life and collected a lot of good karma. That is the only explanation for how I met you in this life,” answered Jiang Yingying with a smile.

Han Jingru grinned exasperatedly. *What kind of answer is that? It’s completely unscientific!*

“There are too many things in this world that simply can’t be explained. I believe that

everything is set in stone and can only play out as planned. If my mom hadn't met you, she wouldn't get a job, and if I hadn't met you, I would have already fallen into those assh\*les' trap. My family owed you so much, and I didn't know how to repay you. Yet, out of nowhere, I suddenly gained the strength to stay by your side and repay your kindness. All these must've been heaven's will," added Jiang Yingying.

Han Jingru saw all that as coincidences. Still, Jiang Yingying would never have gotten her power if he hadn't placed the bones in the storage unit or if Jiang Yingying didn't happen to stay in that place.

Hence, it was also arguable that everything was destined to happen that way.

Mystical events kept happening, and there truly was no logical explanation to it at all.

Han Jingru sighed. *There is no point in thinking about it. Whether reincarnation is real... well, that will be clear once I give Su Yimo the pearl.*

“Do you miss your mom?” asked Han Jingru.

Jiang Yingying tilted her head down. It was obvious that she missed her mom dearly. They had only left Yun City for a short while, but they had gone through so much that it was only natural that she missed home.

“Of course. I also miss Yimo and Xiang,” replied Jiang Yingying.

“I miss them too,” said Han Jingru before he sighed and added, “That is why we have to solve the issues here as quickly as possible. Only then can we return to Yun City.”

“Jingru, I want to enter the Devil’s Cave with you,” claimed Jiang Yingying.

“Don’t worry, I won’t fail. You should practice for now. I will talk to Mr. Yi and make the necessary arrangements,” said Han Jingru before he left.

Han Jingru had successfully achieved Gold rank, and it was time for him to challenge the Devil’s

Cave. To Han Jingru, time was of the essence, and he had to complete his tasks as soon as possible.

Mr. Yi and Fang Zhan were hanging out in Four Gates' domain. Mr. Yi never told Fang Zhan about Fu Yao, but the former did mention how Han Jingru was special.

Fang Zhan had always known and agreed that Han Jingru was different, but the fact that Mr. Yi brought it up yet again got him suspicious. *Something must've happened.*

Fang Zhan used to be one of the top ten elites, so he knew exactly what he should and shouldn't ask. Given that Mr. Yi didn't mention anything, Fang Zhan decided against asking either.

"Mr. Yi, when will you arrange for him to go to the Devil's Cave?" asked Fang Zhan curiously.

"I'm guessing he's even more eager than I am, so there's no need to ask me. Just talk to him about it," replied Mr. Yi with a smile.

He had just finished speaking when he saw Han Jingru's figure walking towards them.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru walked straight to the two men and asked Mr. Yi, “When can we start?”

Mr. Yi knew that Han Jingru couldn't wait, but the former was still surprised by his visit that early in the morning. After all, Han Jingru had walked past the secret door and entered Fu Yao's resting place. Mr. Yi was certain that the book wasn't the only item of interest in that grave, so he thought that Han Jingru would try to sneak into the grave again.

“When would you like to start?” asked Mr. Yi.

“Today,” answered Han Jingru firmly.

“Is there really nothing in the grave that is of your interest?” asked Mr. Yi as he frowned. Both Mr. Yi and He Qingfeng guessed that the place contained a secret item that could change Apocalypse. It might even turn Apocalypse stronger, and the fact that Han Jingru could enter the place meant that the item inside could make him stronger.

The Devil's Cave was a dangerous place where

one mishap could mean certain death, and Mr. Yi thought it would be better if Han Jingru faced the Devil's Cave after becoming stronger.

Han Jingru had seen Fu Yao, who looked identical to Su Yimo, while he was inside the grave. Everything else paled in comparison to that. All Han Jingru wanted to do was to figure out the connection between the two women as soon as possible. Learning Apocalypse's secret was the first step to figuring that out.

Passing the test offered by the Devil's Cave was necessary for Han Jingru to learn Apocalypse's secret. That made Han Jingru want to challenge the Devil's Cave as quickly as possible.

"I'll be honest with you, though. I didn't examine the place closely. Maybe I'll go check it out again when I have the chance to do so," informed Han Jingru.

Mr. Yi couldn't help chuckling exasperatedly at that. He had always known that Han Jingru was different, but... *This dude is so different that it is ridiculous. He didn't even examine the place properly. Everyone else wouldn't be able to contain their curiosity.*



“Alright, we’ll do as you requested, then. I’ll inform Three Halls today and you can enter the Devil’s Cave this afternoon,” said Mr. Yi.

“Great. I’ll be waiting,” said Han Jingru before he turned around and left.

Fang Zhan was curious about the ‘place’ the men were talking about, but he never asked. *Mr. Yi would tell me about it if it’s nothing important. If Mr. Yi isn’t taking the initiative to inform me about it, then there is probably no point in me asking, anyway.*

“I’ll be leaving too, Mr. Yi,” said Fang Zhan.

“Okay, I should go tend to this matter as well,” said Mr. Yi.

Fang Zhan chased after Han Jingru after that. Fang Zhan was worried about Han Jingru facing the Devil’s Cave because Fang Zhan had gone through it himself. He wouldn’t have survived if his comrades hadn’t sacrificed themselves for

him.

“Why are you so eager to go? The Devil’s Cave isn’t as simple as you think,” said Fang Zhan.

“I have a question that needs to be answered as soon as possible, and the first step to finding this answer is learning Apocalypse’s secret,” confessed Han Jingru.

Fang Zhan and Han Jingru hadn’t known each other for long, but Fang Zhan knew how stubborn Han Jingru was. *Han Jingru won’t change his mind once he decided, and no one can stop him if he insists on facing the Devil’s Cave.*

“I can’t tell you what you’ll be facing in the Devil’s Cave, but I can warn you. It doesn’t matter what you see or hear. You can’t fight it, and your only option is to flee. Run towards the light, because that is your only way out,” shared Fang Zhan.

“Don’t worry. Nangong Family will continue working on their mission to locate your daughter even if I die inside the Devil’s Cave,” said Han

Jingru nonchalantly.

Fang Zhan grinned. At first, Fang Zhan only returned to Apocalypse because Han Jingru promised to help locate his daughter. However, the two of them spent some time together, and Fang Zhan started seeing Han Jingru as more than a means to an end. Fang Zhan truly wished that Han Jingru would survive and make Apocalypse stronger. *I'd also like it very much if I can see just how big of a miracle this young man can create.*

“I’m not just giving you that advice for my daughter’s sake. I’m also saying it because you just might save the world,” said Fang Zhan.

“Save the world?” scoffed Han Jingru before he added, “I’m not superman, so saving the world isn’t exactly within my job scope. The only thing I need to do is to spend the rest of my life protecting my wife and kid.”

“The world needs to be at peace for your family to be safe. You’ll understand everything I say once you return from the Devil’s Cave,” said

Fang Zhan.

Han Jingru returned to his place to tell Jiang Yingying about the trip to the Devil's Cave that afternoon. He also went back to think about Fang Zhan's advice.

Flee... That was rather straightforward, and the Devil's Cave had to be fatally dangerous to prompt Fang Zhan to say those words.

Han Jingru used to assume that the danger posed by the Devil's Cave had more to do with endurance or figuring traps out. Yet Fang Zhan's advice was for him to flee. That meant the danger within was not about dealing with traps or figuring puzzles out.

The word 'flee' would only be applicable if they were facing a fighter that could not be defeated.

*Could it be... Is the Devil's Cave a group of Platinum rank fighters? But doesn't Apocalypse ban its members from killing one another? In that case, how could the danger posed by the test stem from murder?*

“What’s wrong, Jingru?” asked Jiang Yingying, who couldn’t keep her curiosity in when she saw how grim Han Jingru was.

“I’m just wondering what kind of place the Devil’s Cave is,” replied Han Jingru.

“You’ll see once you get in, right? There’s no point in guessing now,” said Jiang Yingying.

Han Jingru nodded in agreement before saying, “Good point. Why bother giving myself a headache now, right?”

Four Gates shared the news about how Han Jingru would be challenging the Devil’s Cave that day, and the news spread like wildfire. Countless were flabbergasted.

No one expected Han Jingru to face the Devil’s Cave that soon. Han Jingru’s stay at the Apocalypse had been less than a month, and if he actually pulled it off, it would be a miracle that Apocalypse had never seen before. No one had ever accomplished anything like that, and it was likely that no one would.

“Han Jingru chose to challenge the Devil’s Cave even though he just got here?”

“He’s already a Gold-rank master, and his achievement is already far beyond what Lin Tong achieved. Why is he still so impulsive?”

“Impulsive? Nah. I bet he’s just confident with his skills. No one has ever defeated a Gold-rank master in the Qualifying Tournament before, and I’m guessing his skills are already Platinum rank.”

“Challenging the Devil’s Cave was probably just a formality to him. Maybe he never even saw it as a challenge.”

“Lin Tong is a total joke now. He used to be known as the Chosen One, but he never challenged the Devil’s Cave even though he had been here for years. Compared to Han Jingru, Lin Tong wasn’t just physically weaker. He was also more cowardly.”

Apocalypse started gossiping about Han Jingru, and Lin Tong was insulted in the process.

Han Jingru being promoted as a Gold-rank fighter already made his achievement way better than Lin Tong's. However, Lin Tong could still take comfort in the fact that at least they were of the same rank. The Devil's Cave was a frightening place for Lin Tong, and he never even dreamed of challenging it. Han Jingru, on the other hand, was being proactive.

Even if Han Jingru's and Lin Tong's skills were ignored, the difference in their courage still made Han Jingru look better than Lin Tong. That crushed the heart of the man known as the Chosen One.

He Xiaoxiao was similarly distraught by that news. As far as she was concerned, Han Jingru was just a piece of trash with Bronze rank. It had only been two weeks since they met, but that trash had already risen so fast that he achieved something that no one else had.

“Dad, is Han Jingru really facing the Devil's

Cave?” asked He Xiaoxiao when she saw He Qingfeng. She thought it was possible for the entire thing to be nothing more than rumors. *the Devil*

He Qingfeng was equally stumped at that moment. He shared the same idea that Mr. Yi had. Han Jingru could enter Fu Yao’s resting place as many times as he wanted, and he could strengthen himself with the secrets held in that place. *Why would he challenge the Devil’s Cave so soon?*

However, Mr. Yi of Four Gates was the one who shared the news, so it could not be faked.

“Mr. Yi shared the news himself, so it’s probably real,” replied He Qingfeng.

He Xiaoxiao turned as pale as paper. Han Jingru’s action had crushed her pride once more. Despite being the daughter of the head of Three Halls, He Xiaoxiao was not given the authority to even get close to the Devil’s Cave. Yet, the trash she looked down on was about to challenge the Devil’s Cave that had killed everyone who



entered over the past decade.

“He must be unaware of the fact that it had been a decade since anyone survive the Devil’s Cave,” growled He Xiaoxiao through gritted teeth.

“Mr. Yi will definitely have told him about how dangerous the Devil’s Cave is, so I believe he knows,” replied He Qingfeng.

He Xiaoxiao gritted her teeth even more. *That ass\*le knows how dangerous it is, so why is he still going? Is he not afraid at all? Or is he really that confident and doesn’t see the Devil’s Cave as a threat?*

He Xiaoxiao took a deep breath before asking, “Dad, what are the chances of him surviving this?”

He Xiaoxiao would feel better if Han Jingru died. At least that proved how stupid Han Jingru was, and He Xiaoxiao could take comfort in that. *He may be strong, but hopefully, he is overestimating himself and will pay the ultimate price.*

He Qingfeng had been thinking about that since he received the news of Han Jingru challenging the Devil's Cave. Given Han Jingru's skills, it was likely that he would be the first person in the past ten years to survive the Devil's Cave. *The guy never showed his true strength to anyone before, and that was true even when he was crushing a master in the Gold rank. However, the Devil's Cave offered too many variables, and there is no saying what a person will face in that place.*

*If he is lucky, he will leave the place without a scratch, and it'll be like a stroll. If he is unlucky and entered while those... things are awake, then even a master in Platinum rank would have trouble surviving.*

"I can't say for sure. It depends on his luck," answered He Qingfeng.

"Dad, is there something we can do to make sure that he dies?" asked He Xiaoxiao.

He Qingfeng's gaze froze. He Xiaoxiao attempted to kill Han Jingru once, but she failed,

and He Qingfeng assumed that she had given up on that. Hence, He Qingfeng was surprised to learn that his daughter was still persistent in that matter.

Apocalypse would benefit greatly if Han Jingru survived the Devil's Cave. The Restricted Area was getting more and more out of control, and Apocalypse needed to become stronger. Han Jingru could offer that strength, and it'd be a huge loss to Apocalypse if he died.

“I'm warning you. Don't mess things up for him. Han Jingru is important to Apocalypse, and I am praying for his survival even though he is not a member of Three Halls,” said He Qingfeng sternly.

The Four Gates and the Three Halls were branches of the same tree. They had to join forces to deal with the danger posed by the Restricted Area, and during those times of distress, any internal turmoil and politics would turn meaningless. As the head of Three Halls, He Qingfeng refused to let anything bad happen.

“Important? He is nothing but a useless piece of trash. How important can he really be?” protested He Xiaoxiao like the spoiled brat she was. She had always been the princess that everyone had to butter up to. Han Jingru was the first one to disregard her. Hence, it was extremely difficult for her to change her opinion of Han Jingru.

It didn't matter that Han Jingru was a master with Gold rank. He was still a useless piece of trash to He Xiaoxiao. To make matters worse, He Xiaoxiao was so spoiled that she was already used to destroying anything she didn't like.

“I am not joking about this. I will ground you if you play dirty,” warned He Qingfeng.

He Xiaoxiao clenched her tiny fists. He Qingfeng had always spoiled her endlessly in the past, but he changed after Han Jingru showed up. In other words, Han Jingru marked the beginning of the change, so He Xiaoxiao put all the blame and hate on Han Jingru.

Those circumstances only made He Xiaoxiao pray for Han Jingru's death even more.

“What can I do? It’s not like I can go near the Devil’s Cave, anyway. I just hope that guy dies in there,” said He Xiaoxiao in a tone full of hate.

That afternoon, Mr. Yi personally led the way and brought Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying to the entrance of the Devil’s Cave. Countless eyes were on Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying as they traveled over because no one had survived the Devil’s Cave in the past decade. The fear it inspired got many to run from that test, so Han Jingru’s determination and choice got many to admire his bravery.

He Qingfeng was waiting by the entrance when the others reached their destination. Han Jingru was a member of the Four Gates, but a test of that magnitude still warranted the presence of the head of Three Halls.

“I didn’t think you’d make a decision that quickly, Han Jingru. I am truly surprised to hear the news,” said He Qingfeng as he walked over to Han Jingru.

“I’ve already handed you the most valuable

treasure the place had to offer. There's no point in heading over anymore, and I have to face this eventually anyway, so I thought I might as well just get it over with," said Han Jingru nonchalantly.

"Do you really think I'd believe a word you say?" asked He Qingfeng with a smile.

"Why would I choose to challenge the Devil's Cave now if there really is something in there that can strengthen me? It'd make more sense to strengthen myself and increase my chances of surviving the Devil's Cave before heading in," said Han Jingru.

Those words got He Qingfeng to shut up. If the place did contain what He Qingfeng thought it did, any human being would choose to delay entering the Devil's Cave. Han Jingru's quick decision and choice proved that the place never held the treasure He Qingfeng desired.

“Maybe you’re doing all this just to trick me,” replied He Qingfeng. He couldn’t find any fault or flaws in Han Jingru’s reaction and expression, but He Qingfeng still refused to believe the truth. After all, that was Fu Yao’s final resting place, and she was the most powerful fighter recorded in Apocalypse’s history.

“You think I’d risk my life to trick you?” chuckled Han Jingru before he walked ahead and brushed past He Qingfeng’s shoulder. There was no point in saying anything anymore. Han Jingru didn’t care if He Qingfeng believed in his words. Han Jingru was the only one who could walk into that place anyway, and he never cared about how others see him.

“Are you sure you want to do this? It’s not too late to back out now,” informed Mr. Yi when Han Jingru was walking past him.

“There are so many spectators around, and I will be the laughingstock if I back out now,” said Han Jingru.

“Even if that is the case, it will still be better than

losing your life. You can still go back and make better preparations,” said Mr. Yi. The incident had gotten everyone in Apocalypse excited, and most had their eyes on it. Backing away at that moment would surely result in mocks and ridicules. However, those were nothing compared to surviving.

“I’m ready,” insisted Han Jingru without a second thought.

Mr. Yi sighed and replied, “In that case, the Devil’s Cave is right in front of you, and you may enter.”

The entrance of the cave was no different from an ordinary cave, but the cave itself was obviously darker. No one could see anything from the entrance, but a nauseating and pungent smell could be detected. It was obvious that the smell would only become worse as a person entered the cave.

Han Jingru turned to Jiang Yingying before he led the way and entered the cave.



Jiang Yingying followed closely behind. She never even showed a hint of hesitation.

The two of them entering the cave meant that there was no changing their minds anymore, and that got Mr. Yi to sigh deeply. He prayed, “I hope they make it out alive.”

“He has a wife and a child waiting for him. I don’t think he’d let himself die that easily,” commented Fang Zhan.

Mr. Yi nodded. Given how much Han Jingru cared about Su Yimo and Han Xiang, it was certain that he would not forgo even the smallest sliver of hope and would do anything to survive. However, the Devil’s Cave held too much uncertainty, and that was not something mere mortals could change.

“Mr. Yi, did Han Jingru hand anything to you before he entered the Devil’s Cave?” asked He Qingfeng as he approached Mr. Yi.

“You really should let go of your obsession towards Fu Yao’s final resting place, He

Qingfeng. The most important thing is for Han Jingru to survive this and come out in one piece. He is the only one who can change our fates if the Restricted Area becomes more unstable,” replied Mr. Yi sternly.

The way He Qingfeng dealt with the matter had fully revealed his selfishness. To make matters worse, he didn't bother hiding it. He said, “Han Jingru is important, but so is the content of that place. In fact, those contents might bring about a bigger change than he could. You can't keep any treasure or secret to yourself, Mr. Yi.”

“We're too different to have a proper conversation. If you don't trust me, I'll let you search the Four Gates whenever you can,” scoffed Mr. Yi.

“Well, since you offered, Mr. Yi, I will take up on it. I will most definitely make time and visit,” said He Qingfeng as he grinned.

Mr. Yi's expression took a sharp change. *This asshole is crazy, but I didn't do anything vile, so I'm not worried about him searching the place, anyway.*

“Drop by if you’re that suspicious. I won’t stop you.”

Inside the Devil’s Cave.

Endless darkness engulfed Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying after they went in. A pungent and disgusting scent kept attacking them, and Han Jingru could barely keep himself together as he endured it. Jiang Yingying, however, was a dainty lady, and she simply couldn’t bear it. She went to the side and started vomiting.

“How are you?” asked Han Jingru as he helped Jiang Yingying up.

“What is this smell, Jingru? How is it so bad?” asked Jiang Yingying while wearing a horrible expression.

“Rest here for a while. We’ll continue after you feel better,” suggested Han Jingru as he looked into the darkness to find a source of light. That light was supposed to be on the other side of the

cave and should be the exit that Fang Zhan talked about.

Jiang Yingying didn't object to Han Jingru's suggestion. She nodded because it was rather difficult for her to deal with the danger ahead when her condition was so terrible.

Just then, Jiang Yingying felt something crawling up her leg, and she kicked it away after being surprised.

"What's wrong?" asked Han Jingru in a confused tone.

"Jingru, something crawled up my leg," replied Jiang Yingying in a scared tone. Underneath it all, Jiang Yingying was a woman, and she was still afraid of bugs and rats.

Their surrounding was simply too dark, and it was impossible to tell what was surrounding them. Han Jingru sighed and said, "I would've brought a torch along if I had known how dark it is."

A few glowing poles came out of nowhere and fell onto the ground. Those poles brightened the place up, and everything became visible.

Jiang Yingying only became more scared when she saw everything around her.

Underneath her feet were countless skulls and skeletons that could make a small hill.

“Jingru, h-how are there so many skeletons around?” blurted Jiang Yingying as she gripped Han Jingru’s arm.

Han Jingru’s expression turned grim as well. *These are probably the remains of the others who had challenged the Devil’s Cave and failed. The fact that they died here proved just how horrifying the threat within the Devil’s Cave was. How strong does the threat have to be to cause so many deaths?*

“Be careful,” cautioned Han Jingru grimly before he took a step forward to shield Jiang Yingying behind him.

“T-the thing that crawled up my leg earlier... Could that be the reason all these people are dead?” asked Jiang Yingying in a terrified tone.

Han Jingru nodded. It was possible that was what killed everyone, but Han Jingru didn't see it, so he didn't know what it was.

“The Devil's Cave is so dangerous that it killed so many before they even got too far from the entrance. No wonder Fang Zhan told me to just run when trouble arose,” shared Han Jingru sternly.

Han Jingru finally understood the purpose of Fang Zhan's warning at that moment. The remains under his feet had made it clear that the Devil's Cave was not a place one can stay in.

“We should go,” said Han Jingru. They didn't know what the danger lurking around was, so they couldn't stay there. It didn't even matter that Jiang Yingying hadn't gotten accustomed to the stench yet.

The two of them forged ahead without knowing

that a peculiar-looking, white snake with skin that looked as beautiful as jade was crawling beside them.

The baby snake had crimson red eyes, but it didn't seem hostile. It simply followed closely behind Han Jingru.

By that time, Mr. Yi had already returned to the Four Gates, and he looked worried.

“Mr. Yi, there's nothing you can do now anyway, so you don't need to worry so much,” said Fang Zhan.

Fang Zhan was right. Han Jingru had already entered the Devil's Cave, so there was no point in worrying. However, logical thinking couldn't stop Mr. Yi from worrying anyway.

“I just wish the Ruby-eyed Python doesn't show up. If it does, there will be no survivors,” sighed Mr. Yi.

The mere mention of the Ruby-eyed Python got Fang Zhan to turn as pale as a sheet of paper. As

someone who had gone through the Devil's Cave, Fang Zhan was well aware of just how dangerous the Ruby-eyed Python was. That was the most vicious creature in all of the second world and could only be found in the Devil's Cave.



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“Most of the remains were found a short distance from the entrance. The deeper we ventured, the less the skeletons. I think we’ve gotten past the most dangerous section of the Devil’s Cave,” said Han Jingru to calm Jiang Yingying’s nerves down.

However, those words weren’t just to calm her down. They were also the truth. The further they ventured into the cave, the fewer the skeletons, and that proved that the section by the entrance was the most dangerous one.

Jiang Yingying already seemed better at the time. The unknown danger within the Devil’s Cave still frightened her, but that level of fear was something she could cope with.

“Jingru, just what sort of place is this? I keep getting the feeling that we’re not the only ones here. It’s like something is monitoring us from the dark,” said Jiang Yingying.

Han Jingru took a deep breath. At first, he thought his paranoia was playing tricks on him, but if Jiang Yingying sensed the same thing,

then...

“Watch your steps. Fang Zhan said that we should run if we ever come across anything. We’d pass the test even if we were fleeing the entire time,” said Han Jingru.

Jiang Yingying nodded.

The two of them were going to continue moving when they heard a loud pant. That got the two of them frozen on the spot, and neither dared to move a muscle.

They turned their heads towards the direction where the heavy panting echoed from.

Everything was dark in that direction, so neither could tell what the panting creature was.

Unfortunately, the stomping of feet indicated that the creature was slowly approaching them.

Han Jingru stepped forward once more to shield Jiang Yingying behind him. Jiang Yingying, however, showed no signs of debilitating fear. She knew that being scared in the face of danger served no purpose. She needed to face the

challenge with Han Jingru. Only then could they deal with the matter and go home safely.

The panting creature finally revealed itself to Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying. Even Han Jingru, who had been mentally preparing himself, was shocked and terrified. Jiang Yingying, who had just braced herself, was even more taken aback.

A three-meter tall gorilla with a fierce look was standing before them. The gorilla even hit its own chest to show them its strength.

That particular gorilla was nothing like the gorilla Han Jingru had seen in the zoos before. The gorilla in the Devil's Cave had fur that was standing straight and looked as sharp as steel. It was obvious that the fur was destructive, and the gorilla's crimson red eyes only further showed that it was something different.

The most important bit, however, was that Han Jingru had noticed a strange rune resting on the gorilla's forehead. It seemed that rune was a mark and a sign that the gorilla was not from Earth.

“Jingru, this gorilla looks terrifying,” commented Jiang Yingying.

“I don’t think this is an ordinary gorilla. Just what secret is Apocalypse hiding? And how did they get their hands on all these weird beings?” said Han Jingru. Apocalypse’s secret was slowly being revealed to Han Jingru, but everything he learned only made him more curious.

*The creature is obviously not of our Earth, so why is it here? And where did it come from?*

The gorilla started hitting its own chest at a faster pace, and according to what Han Jingru had learned, a gorilla would attack after showing off its strength.

Han Jingru didn’t dare to let his guard down when faced with a horrifying creature like that.

“Stay back and be careful,” instructed Han Jingru to Jiang Yingying.

The gorilla stopped short just before it attacked. Then it happened. It was like time had frozen for

a moment. Han Jingru's muscles had tightened as he braced himself for the uphill battle ahead, but something strange happened at the last second. That got Han Jingru flabbergasted.

The gorilla actually turned around and fled like he had seen something horrifying.

No one spoke for the next ten seconds or so. Jiang Yingying later asked curiously, "J-Jingru, what is going on? Why did it run away?"

Goosebumps were already all over Han Jingru. *A powerful creature like that won't leave for no reason. It likely saw an enemy that frightened him to his core, and that meant that a creature even more powerful than the gorilla is somewhere close.*

"Yingying, come stay by my side right now!" ordered Han Jingru sternly.

Confused, Jiang Yingying walked to Han Jingru's side and asked, "What's going on, Jingru?"

Han Jingru took a deep breath. He was more alert

than he had ever been before when he explained, “Only a creature even more powerful than the gorilla can scare it away. That creature must be close.”

After hearing the explanation, Jiang Yingying instantly understood why Han Jingru was that nervous.

However, everything was quiet around them. There wasn't a single thing that was off, and that made the situation strange and awkward.

Two minutes later, Jiang Yingying voiced up. She couldn't bear the pressure anymore, so she said, “Jingru, nothing seems to be out there. What do you think is happening?”

Han Jingru frowned. He thought it was strange as well. *How could there be nothing at all? That gorilla obviously had it out for us and was about to attack. The way it turned around and fled showed how frightened it was.*

Based on what Han Jingru knew, powerful creatures like that gorilla would only leave if they

saw their predators or if a stronger creature was around. It wouldn't have fled otherwise.

“Be careful. Something feels off,” warned Han Jingru. He didn't dare to let his guard down because they were in the Devil's Cave. That was the place where countless fighters died, and letting his guard down could mean adding another pile of bones, his bones, to the collection.

A few more minutes went by, but the danger that Han Jingru anticipated never showed. That got him confused, as he simply couldn't understand what had just happened.

Just then, Jiang Yingying suddenly told Han Jingru, “Jingru, look! It's on the ground.”

*The ground!*

Those words got Han Jingru to move his feet. His line of sight later shifted downward, and he saw a white snake slithering around. Han Jingru didn't find it aggressive, though. In fact, he thought that the snake was pretty cute.

“Jingru, the snake is so pretty,” claimed Jiang Yingying. She had already walked past Han Jingru and looked like she was about to reach out and hold the snake.

Han Jingru halted immediately. “Don’t touch it, Yingying,” said Han Jingru, “Remember that we’re in the Devil’s Cave!”

Han Jingru didn’t dare to brush anything inside the Devil’s Cave off. Even a mosquito could get Han Jingru on edge, so a strange snake was out of the question.

The white, jade-like scale and the crimson red eyes signaled that it was not an ordinary creature, and the fact that it was slithering inside the Devil’s Cave only proved how different it was.

“Don’t worry, Jingru. I used to work in a pet store and have seen tons of exotic animals before. I even took care of the snakes,” shared Jiang Yingying. She later crouched down and readied herself to reach out for the snake. However, the snake hissed at her and showed her its tongue and white teeth. It looked like it was warning her to



back away.

That got Jiang Yingying frightened, and she jumped up. After that, she hid behind Han Jingru once more.

“Jingru, this snake has a horrible temper,” commented Jiang Yingying fearfully.

“And you have equally horrible judgment. Do you know what type of snake this is? Is its bite poisonous? What should you do if it bit you?” reprimanded Han Jingru exasperatedly.

Jiang Yingying stuck her tongue out. She knew that she was careless, so she didn't refute.



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The standoff remained. Han Jingru stared at the little white snake, which was staring back at him with its crimson red eyes. Both had their guard up and were waiting for the other to make a move.

Han Jingru suspected that the snake might have something to do with the gorilla fleeing, but he quickly dismissed that idea. *How can this little thing threaten a three-meter tall gorilla?*

“Jingru, are we going to keep waiting?” asked Jiang Yingying.

“The snake looks a little slow and dumb. It’s probably not a threat to us. Let’s just leave,” said Han Jingru.

Just then, the little white snake laid on the ground with its belly up. It looked like it was dead or something.

Han Jingru couldn’t make heads or tails of what the snake was doing, but Jiang Yingying claimed, “Jingru, why do I feel like it is being coquettish with you?”

“The snake? Acting coquettishly?” blurted Han Jingru in astonishment. Snakes were cold-blooded animals that had no emotions. *Why would it behave that way or have thoughts like that?*

“How is that possible? Do snakes even have feelings?” asked Han Jingru curiously. *Jiang Yingying used to work in a pet store, so she should know quite a bit about snakes.*

“I know that the golden python sold in the market can identify its owners, but there are also instances where those pets killed their owners,” shared Jiang Yingying.

As far as Han Jingru was concerned, Jiang Yingying’s words were completely useless. *This is not an ordinary puppy or kitten that would listen to their owners’ command. Besides, anyone who keeps snakes as a pet is probably a weirdo, so who knows why their pet snake killed them?*

“In any case, let’s just move on. We can further discuss this after we’re out,” said Han Jingru.

The two of them turned around and were about to leave when Han Jingru felt something tangling on his foot. He shifted his gaze down. *What's the little white snake doing?*

At the same time.

Inside the Genting Villa of Yun City.

The villa was surprisingly lively that day, and many were dropping by. Unfortunately, every stranger wore an exasperated and helpless expression when they exited the villa. It looked like something grave was happening.

“Su Yimo is the woman Han Jingru loves the most, Nangong Boling. No one can deal with the consequences if anything were to happen to her. You have to find a way and save her,” said Mo Lan grimly as he stood in the garden with Nangong Boling.

Nangong Boling looked troubled as well. He was well aware of how much Han Jingru loved Su Yimo. *Han Jingru's fury will be immense if anything happens to this woman, and I might not even survive it, let alone get taken to Apocalypse.*

“Don’t worry, I’ve contacted medical experts from all around the world. Many are en route and are on the plane now. I’m sure they’ll be here soon,” said Nangong Boling.

Mo Lan wasn’t relieved or hopeful when he heard that. He kept pacing around and asking, “Why is she suddenly ill? She was fine all along. How did everything turn so bad overnight?”

“I’ve never heard of something like this before, either. Should we call Han Jingru?” asked Nangong Boling.

Mo Lan had been pondering that question for a while. He concluded that it was best to inform Han Jingru in a timely manner because the consequence would be dire otherwise. *Han Jingru will surely get incredibly angry. The only problem is that we don’t know where Han Jingru is, so how are we going to send him a message?*

“Do you know where he is?” asked Mo Lan.

Nangong Boling shook his head. He knew that Han Jingru was in Apocalypse, but the location of Apocalypse itself was a mystery. It had been years, and Nangong Boling had investigated the matter before, but he never learned anything.

One could only send a message if the people from Apocalypse showed up to them. If not, there was no way to get word to Apocalypse.

“I’ll figure something out,” replied Nangong Boling.

Inside the villa.

The key members of the Han family were sitting in the living room, and Su Yimo stood out in the crowd due to her white hair.

Her hair turning white overnight got everyone in the villa nervous, and that was why countless medical experts had been dropping by Yun City that day. Unfortunately, even the experts were stumped by the situation. The only thing they could be certain of was that Su Yimo was physically healthy. The reason behind her hair

turning white overnight remained unknown.

Su Yimo didn't look sickly or weak despite her head of white hair. If anything, it made her look even more stunning.

“You don't need to worry. I know my body well, and I'm fine,” said Su Yimo to the others. She didn't feel any discomfort within her body, even though she found it strange that her hair had suddenly turned white. Still, her feeling physically fine got her to feel like it was not a big deal.

Shi Yan shot a look at Han Xiuzhi. The former didn't dare to speak freely. After all, a normal human being wouldn't suddenly have a head of white hair. *Something must've happened to the body to trigger a reaction like that.*

“Yimo, the doctors that dropped by earlier were medical experts from nearby hospitals. They said that your body is healthy, so you should be fine. As for your white hair, I'm sure we can find the root cause of it. Don't worry, Nangong Boling had already tapped into his network and had

medical experts from all around the world to hurry to Yun City,” said Han Xiuzhi in a comforting tone.

The Head of Nangong Family was ridiculously influential, and Su Yimo could only imagine the number of airplanes flying to Yun City at that moment. That got her to grin exasperatedly and say, “I’m fine, grandpa. There’s no need to get so many people involved.”

“Of course there’s a need for that. You are the daughter-in-law of the Han family. Even a cough and a snuffle are worth having everyone travel over,” said Shi Yan.

“Mom, that’s a little overkill, isn’t it?” replied Su Yimo. She wore a helpless expression, and it seemed like she didn’t know if she should laugh or cry about the situation. Truth was, Su Yimo was worried about her physical condition as well, but she also knew that she would make others feel worse if she showed her fear. Hence, she put on a brave smile and acted like she wasn’t worried.



“No, this is not an overkill at all. You are my daughter-in-law, and we should do that for you,” insisted Shi Yan.

Su Wenlun was worried about his daughter as well, but happiness overwhelmed his worries when he saw how everyone treated Su Yimo. Back then, the members of the Su family treated Su Yimo ever so poorly. Su Yimo was assigned the toughest tasks and rewarded the least. She was at the bottom of the food chain.

*But look at how things are now. She had international medical experts flying over from all around the world, and that is something that even the Su family can't accomplish. For years, Madam Su discriminated against Su Yimo, and I'm guessing Madam Su never imagined how powerful Su Yimo has turned out to be.*

Su Wenlun thought about his extended family then. They couldn't do anything except being envious of Su Yimo, and they certainly didn't feel superior anymore.

Su Ruijin, who was favored and thought to be the

next head of the family, had since fallen so far that he was doing hard labor.

Just then, Su Yimo suddenly gripped her chest and looked like she was in pain.

Everyone rushed to her immediately.

“Yimo, how are you feeling?”

“What’s wrong? Are you in pain?”

“Don’t frighten me like that. What’s going on?”

Han Xiang, who was in Su Yimo’s arms, seemed to have sensed Su Yimo’s pain as well. The child cried.



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Everyone was on edge. The doctors who had just left were called back immediately. They returned to the Genting Villa and examined Su Yimo's physical health once more, but their findings remained the same. The doctors could only shake their heads in exasperation. They could not offer any solution.

Furious, Han Xiuzhi chased everyone out of the villa. It didn't matter how renowned the doctors were or how influential their families were. Everyone got criticized, and no one dared to refute. They simply had their heads down as they endured it all.

Nangong Boling started urging the international doctors as well. He asked them to rush over to Yun City as quickly as possible. Anyone who dared to act like an arrogant brat would have cold steel pressed against their necks. It was not an exaggeration to say that Su Yimo's condition had put the medical industry on edge. Nangong Boling no longer cared about politics and wasn't shy to show everyone just how powerful the Nangong family was. He was forceful and made it clear that anyone who disobeyed the Nangong

family would meet an untimely death.

Han Jingru was still inside the Devil's Cave and remained unaware of the situation in Yun City. However, he encountered something similarly strange. The little white snake seemed to have taken a liking to him, and it didn't matter where he went. It would just follow him everywhere. What was even stranger was that they never saw another creature, other than the gorilla, in the supposedly dangerous Devil's Cave. *Is the gorilla responsible for the death of every single fighter who challenged the Devil's Cave?*

“Jingru, something feels off. Why haven't we met anything dangerous, even though we're seeing tons of human remains? What was it that killed them?” asked Jiang Yingying curiously.

Han Jingru shook his head. He had been wondering the same thing, but hadn't thought of any plausible explanation yet.

The bones were there, and that meant that the danger had to be lurking nearby as well. However, they were getting closer and closer to

the supposed exit and the danger seemed to be getting further and further away from them.

“I find this strange, too. Is the gorilla the only creature in here? If so, why did it flee?” said Han Jingru in a confused tone.

Just then, the little white snake slithered ahead and blocked Han Jingru’s path. It was as if the snake understood what Han Jingru was saying and was showing him its presence. In fact, the snake was protesting so much that might as well be shouting, “Oy, that gorilla isn’t the only creature here. Look at me! I’m here! Yoohoo!”

Han Jingru kicked the snake away and scoffed, “It’s a miracle that a tiny thing like you survived, so why are you still showing off in front of me?”

The little white snake looked wronged and its eyes exuded sorrow as it hung on the wall.

Han Jingru didn’t bother taking another look at the snake. He simply turned to Jiang Yingying and said, “Regardless of the situation, it’s good that we can leave here in one piece. The reason

behind their deaths has nothing to do with us, anyway.”

Jiang Yingying nodded. She had gotten accustomed to the stench of the Devil’s Cave, but she still wanted to leave as soon as possible.

“Let’s pick up the pace, Jingru,” said Jiang Yingying.

The two of them ran ahead. It didn’t take long before they heard a commotion. It was the sound of stones being ground together and pushed away. It seemed that Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying were about to meet yet another creature from the Devil’s Cave.

“Looks like we underestimated the situation, Jingru. Leaving is not going to be that easy,” said Jiang Yingying grimly.

Han Jingru expected that. He never thought of himself as a lucky man, and he didn’t believe that his trip through the Devil’s Cave would be a simple stroll.

“Guess it’s time to see something new again.

Stand back,” instructed Han Jingru.

A huge lizard with wings crawled up to them soon after. It bared its crimson red tongue to show dominance while its entire body exuded a ridiculous stench. It looked like it had just found dinner, and its saliva had already formed a small pool on the ground.

“Looks like it already sees us as food,” commented Han Jingru.

Jiang Yingying could see its hunger and desire as well. The terrifying creature stood in front of them, and Jiang Yingying didn’t even know how they were going to fight that thing.

“What do we do, Jingru?” asked Jiang Yingying.

*What do we do?*

That question stumped Han Jingru. He finally fully understood why Fang Zhan told him not to fight and to run upon seeing anything at all.

*This is not something that mere mortals can fight,*

*but... The lizard is barring the path to the exit, so where can we even run to?*

“Looks like surviving the Devil’s Cave isn’t about being strong. It’s about being lucky,” sighed Han Jingru. It didn’t matter that he was promoted to Gold rank within the shortest time frame. He was dealing with an enemy that was simply out of his league, and there was nothing he could do. He could only accept his fate.

“Should we turn back?” asked Jiang Yingying.

“There’s no saying what we’ll encounter if we go back. Moreover, there is no food or water in here. If we keep running back and forth, we will just end up exhausted and dead anyway.” replied Han Jingru. He knew that there was no turning back. Their only shot at survival was to fight the giant lizard head-on. If they’re lucky, they might just squeeze through and survive somehow.

Han Jingru put all his hope on the power inside his body. If it could flare up and give him an even bigger burst of power, then he might just survive it.



Han Jingru thought about Su Yimo and Han Xiang at that moment. He suddenly felt the will to survive. *No matter what, I cannot die here in the Devil's Cave!*

“Jingru, y-your head,” said Jiang Yingying. She was staring at Han Jingru with surprise in her eyes because a faint light suddenly glowed from Han Jingru’s head.

What no one noticed at that moment was that the little white snake had become gleeful upon seeing that light. Its crimson red eyes were brimming with undeniable excitement.

“Back away,” instructed Han Jingru in a deep voice.

Jiang Yingying instinctively took a few steps back. She felt like Han Jingru had suddenly turned strange, and that frightened her.

The little white snake slithered backward as well. That being said, its scale started shining, and it was as if it was evolving then and there.

Everyone in Apocalypse had been monitoring the Devil's Cave ever since Han Jingru walked in. Most were curious about whether Han Jingru could survive the Devil's Cave, but one, in particular, was there praying for his death.

He Xiaoxiao wanted Han Jingru to die in that Devil's Cave. Only then would she regain her pride as a princess.

Just then, the Devil's Cave suddenly trembled. It wasn't an earthquake and was obviously a reaction caused by whatever it was that happened within the Devil's Cave.

Mr. Yi of the Four Gates turned grim, and he hurried over to the Devil's Cave.

He Qingfeng was in Three Halls and was studying the book that Han Jingru had gotten out of Fu Yao's resting place. When He Qingfeng felt the tremors, he quickly put the book away as well.

The two elderly men bumped into one another by the entrance of the Devil's Cave, and they both

looked equally distraught.

“Why is this happening?” demanded He Qingfeng.

Mr. Yi gritted his teeth. The issue he was worried about the most had happened.

The Devil’s Cave wasn’t just a test of strength. Anyone who got into a fight with anything in there would only die.

The tremor from earlier was obviously stemmed from conflict breaking out within the Devil’s Cave.

“Looks like Han Jingru had died in there,” commented He Xiaoxiao as cruelty shone in her eyes. A satisfying grin donned her face.

*He is finally dead, and I will no longer recall how embarrassing the incident was for me since I won’t see him again.*

Noticing Mr. Yi's displeasure with He Xiaoxiao's appearance, He Qingfeng blanched.

No matter how much she wanted Han Jingru dead, she shouldn't have put the boot in at this time.

Mr. Yi had personally taken Han Jingru as his disciple and the fact that the latter made it to the Devil's Cave this time was a great deal to the entire Apocalypse.

For ten years, no one could pass the test of the Devil's Cave and it had caused great fear to many. If Han Jingru passed the test, he could surely restore the confidence in others.

Now that Han Jingru had joined the dead, it only served to heighten the fear the people had for the Devil's Cave. Who would dare to enter the Devil's Cave from now on?

The fact that the crucial test would be nullified from here on and that there would be no more Platinum masters in the future was a huge blow to the Apocalypse.

Not to mention that the current times had reached a crucial juncture. The energy fluctuation from the Restricted Area had signified that the second world was on the move and the Apocalypse wasn't strong enough to deal with it.

“Shut up, Xiaoxiao,” He Qingfeng barked at his daughter.

He Xiaoxiao turned a deaf ear as she continued, “Why can't I criticize him when he was the one who sought for his own death at the Devil's Cave? Who does he think he is? The peerless master? This is the price he has to pay for his ignorance.”

“He is ignorant?” Mr. Yi regarded He Xiaoxiao coldly. “The Four Gates has been keeping our mouth shut with your defiance for many years. But you know what, you have no right to be here even if you're He Qingfeng's daughter. The Apocalypse is a place where you prove yourself with your strength. But you only possess the power of a Bronze fighter. I've been holding my tongue for many years for He Qingfeng's sake. Who are you to judge a fighter who ascended to

Gold rank in just half a month after his arrival at the Apocalypse?”

“Who am I? I’m the daughter of the head of the Three Halls,” He Xiaoxiao said in a haughty tone, not feeling inferior in front of Mr. Yi—all thanks to He Qingfeng for spoiling her since she was young.

He Xiaoxiao had thumbed her nose at anyone in the Apocalypse. To her, even Mr. Yi was just another old man who had one foot in the grave.

“Does the daughter of the head of the Three Halls not have to advance through the Qualifying Tournament?” Mr. Yi turned to look at He Qingfeng, his eyes blazing.

He Qingfeng averted his gaze from Mr. Yi. According to the rules of the Apocalypse, He Xiaoxiao would have to participate in the Qualifying Tournament and no one should be exempted. It was because He Qingfeng and the Four Gates had been silent about it, so it caused everyone else to think that He Xiaoxiao wielded a significant position in the Apocalypse.

She was He Qingfeng's daughter, after all. Who would dare to treat her as a Bronze fighter?

“Xiaoxiao, I said shut up. Do you hear me?” He Qingfeng could only stop his daughter from talking instead of tackling Mr. Yi's question head-on. He Xiaoxiao might get banished to the Bronze domain if Mr. Yi took this seriously. If that were to happen, she would never make it back to the Three Halls nor the core of the Apocalypse given her current ability and her fear of hardship.

Nevertheless, He Xiaoxiao was hell-bent on confronting the Four Gates today. She had to vent her grievances by rebuking Han Jingru to her heart's content.

“Mr. Yi, you're just the head of the Four Gates. What gives you the right to meddle in the affairs of the Three Halls? My dad may be showing you respect, but I'm not afraid of you,” He Xiaoxiao said with total contempt.

Instead of getting offended, Mr. Yi let out a chuckle as he said to He Qingfeng, “He

Qingfeng, is this how you educate your daughter? To be an arrogant and insolent brat?"

"Who are you to say that I'm insolent, you old fool?" He Xiaoxiao snarled.

He Qingfeng quickly walked over to He Xiaoxiao. Although the conflict between the Four Gates and Three Halls had existed for many years, he couldn't let He Xiaoxiao add fuel to the fire. After all, they were in a special time where the second world could very well make a comeback. If an internal conflict were to flare up in the Apocalypse at this time, he would be condemned as a sinner through the ages.

"Apologize to Mr. Yi now," He Qingfeng commanded.

"Why should I apologize to him? Did I say something wrong?" He Xiaoxiao retorted, not sparing the former a glance.

He Xiaoxiao had never thought that she was wrong no matter what she did because He Qingfeng tended to pamper her. In He Xiaoxiao's



perspective, she had never made a mistake in her life so there was no need for her to apologize.

He Qingfeng was flustered. He had thought that He Xiaoxiao should be protected and loved in any way because she was his only daughter. However, it eventually dawned on him how stupid his excessive pampering was, causing her to not only be stubborn but out of control.

*Slap!*

He Qingfeng gave He Xiaoxiao a slap across the face. “I said, apologize to Mr. Yi now.”

This was the second time He Xiaoxiao received a beating in her entire life. There were no tears in her eyes as she looked at He Qingfeng with resentment.

“You slapped me. This is your second time slapping me because of Han Jingru, a dead piece of crap. He Qingfeng, have you forgotten my mother’s last word to you? You swore to her you’d treat me well before she passed on. How could you do this to her?” He Xiaoxiao said in a

questioning tone.

“I did make a promise to her, and what I’m doing now is for your own good. Even if you’re my daughter, you still have to pass the Qualifying Tournament to be qualified to be here. Do you think you can become a Gold fighter with your current ability? Or should I say, do you intend to stay in the Bronze domain forever?” He Qingfeng said sternly. He couldn’t be soft-hearted knowing that He Xiaoxiao would stay in the Bronze rank forever if Mr. Yi were to take this seriously. Not that he was looking down on He Xiaoxiao, but because he knew very well where He Xiaoxiao stood.

It was a pipe dream to ask her to go through immense training and great strength would not just fall from the sky.

“There’s no such thing as an effortless gain in this world, and what I’m doing now is to protect you,” He Qingfeng continued.

He Xiaoxiao wasn’t aware of the graveness of this matter at all. She reckoned that He Qingfeng

was only trying to scare her by threatening to send her to the Bronze domain.

Having been a noble maiden for many years, how would He Xiaoxiao possibly compromise because of this treat?



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“You hit me, and you say you’re protecting me? What a joke, He Qingfeng. Send me to the Bronze domain, I dare you. My mom will be watching,” He Xiaoxiao said, still reluctant to admit her mistake.

He Qingfeng couldn’t help but raise his hand again. As the head of the Three Halls, he could have allowed He Xiaoxiao to fool around at the Three Halls, but not in front of Mr. Yi. He had to deal with this, or the Three Halls would have to bear the blemish of this matter forever.

“He Qingfeng, since she’s made such a request, you should act according to the rules of the Apocalypse. The Four Gates may have turned a blind eye in the past, but not this time.” Mr. Yi left straight away after saying that.

He Qingfeng’s heart sank, knowing that Mr. Yi wouldn’t give in so easily this time. Yet he couldn’t turn against Mr. Yi just to protect his daughter. Otherwise, he would become the sinner for the fallout between the Four Gates and the Three Halls.

“Mr. Yi, He Xiaoxiao has been imperious in the Apocalypse. She should have been relegated to the Bronze domain long ago, and it seems that we’ve gotten what we want now,” the assistant said to Mr. Yi.

Mr. Yi shook his head. “I couldn’t care less even if she dies. Her life doesn’t matter to me or the Apocalypse. But Han Jingru’s recent accident is a devastating blow to the Apocalypse.”

The assistant paled at the thought of Han Jingru. He was well aware of the significance of Han Jingru’s existence. If he could make it out alive from the Devil’s Cave, perhaps he could reignite the desire of the people to challenge the Devil’s Cave. But now that he was dead, the others would only give the Devil’s Cave a wide berth for the next twenty or thirty years.

Han Jingru had become a Gold fighter in less than a month and such accomplishment was a far cry from Lin Tong, the Chosen One. Even so, he had failed to pass the test of the Devil’s Cave and one could imagine how the others would feel about it.

“Han Jingru was probably unlucky,” the assistant sighed. “Who knows if he encountered some weird creatures.”

“The energy fluctuation from the Restricted Area signifies that the second world could possibly make a comeback and there’s no way the Apocalypse could stop it. Is this the end of the Apocalypse?” Mr. Yi bemoaned.

“Is there no other way, Mr. Yi?” the assistant asked, his brows furrowed. Although he knew that the Apocalypse was no match for the second world — thousands of Platinum fighters were defeated, even when Apocalypse was at its peak. However, nothing was impossible in this world. He believed they could seek opportunities in desperate situations and they shouldn’t give up so easily.

“Other way?” Mr. Yi shook his head. “I too hope that there’s another way, but there’s only one prerequisite to face this matter and that is immense power. No matter how many ways we come up with, they’re useless without power. I thought Han Jingru could be the Messiah to bring

change to the Apocalypse, but I guess I was wrong. I shouldn't have placed such a tremendous responsibility on him alone.”

“Mr Yi, y-you're not giving up, are you?” the assistant asked anxiously.

“Give up? Over my dead body,” Mr. Yi said firmly. Never did he think about retreating, even though he knew that the Apocalypse couldn't go up against the second world at this moment. How could he give up easily when there were billions of living beings behind the Apocalypse?

The news of Han Jingru's death at the Devil's Cave soon spread like wildfire. Everyone was lamenting about the fall of a talented fighter.

None of the Gold fighters dared say a word about the Devil's Cave anymore. Under such circumstances, they were even more reluctant to enter the Devil's Cave, so much so that there was no longer anyone desiring to achieve Platinum rank.

At the Bronze domain, Zhuang Tang and Gong

Tian, who were acquainted with Han Jingru, fell silent upon learning this piece of news.

Although there were some contradictions between Gong Tian and Han Jingru, but the former hadn't had any complaints ever since Han Jingru had proven himself with his own strengths. After all, the latter had made it to the Gold rank in half a month while he still remained in the Bronze rank after joining the Apocalypse for many years. He knew well about the difference between them.

“I can't believe Han Jingru is dead, Master. It feels like I just met him yesterday,” Gong Tian said.

“Han Jingru's death sure is a crushing piece of news to the Apocalypse.” Zhuang Tang shook his head. He might not know the significance of the existence of the Apocalypse, but he could read the situation. With no one taking up the challenge to face the Devil's Cave, there would be no Platinum fighters and perhaps the Apocalypse would remain in this awkward state in the next few years.



“It sure is.” Gong Tian nodded understandingly. “It’s a pity that we don’t know the exact reason for the existence of the Apocalypse. We can’t predict how much impact this has brought to the Apocalypse.”

“Gong Tian, why do you think the Apocalypse has gathered all the strongest fighters in the world?” Zhuang Tang asked.

“To defeat certain experts and powerful forces,” Gong Tian answered immediately. He had thought about the answer to this question for a while now, and he wasn’t the only one who had that idea as most of the people in the Apocalypse had such speculations as well. Otherwise, how else could it explain the gathering of experts by the Apocalypse?

“Then have you thought that these experts or powerful forces may not be from earth?” Zhuang Tang asked.

“Not from earth?” Gong Tian’s eyes widened at Zhuang Tang. He had never thought in that direction, and he didn’t know why Zhuang Tang

had such ideas. “Master, do you know something?”

Zhuang Tang shook his head. Of course, these were just his imagination and speculation. Like Gong Tian, he was a Bronze fighter as well, so how could he know what was going on with the core of the Apocalypse?

“I don’t know much, but I suppose the other party most likely isn’t an earthly being and it must be very strong for the Apocalypse to exist. Otherwise, why would the Apocalypse care about forces from the mundane world and want to exterminate them? They could have let the local authorities deal with it,” Zhuang Tang explained.

Gong Tian mulled over Zhuang Tang’s words and thought that they made sense, though he still couldn’t believe that the other party was not from earth.

*Alien? It can’t be.*

“Given our relationship, we could have known a little something from Han Jingru if he was still

alive. But now that he's dead..." Gong Tian sighed.



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At the domain of the Three Halls, He Xiaoxiao knelt before her mother's glass coffin, pouring out her grief over how He Qingfeng had treated her. What he had done today was against his promise to her mother, and she wanted her mother to know that.

He Qingfeng was in agony. He didn't want to see He Xiaoxiao at the Bronze domain because that wasn't a place for a princess like her. However, Mr. Yi had made himself very clear and if he were to cover for He Xiaoxiao's defiance again, it would only further agitate the Four Gates.

He Qingfeng, the head of the Three Halls, could have disregarded the Four Gates and allowed her daughter to be obstinate in the past.

However, there was no telling now if the second world was already on the move, so he couldn't risk jeopardizing the relationship between the Four Gates and the Three Halls.

“Master, are you really sending Ms. He to the Bronze domain?” He Qingfeng's subordinate asked.

He Qingfeng let out a deep sigh. “Xiaoxiao has always been a willful child and the people she offends were usually insignificant. But she has offended Mr. Yi this time. What am I supposed to tell Mr. Yi if I were to keep spoiling her?”

“But Ms. He could never accept the environment at the Bronze domain.”

“So what? It’s time for her to learn her lesson. Where is she?” He Qingfeng asked.

“She’s at the ancestral shrine.”

He Xiaoxiao would always air her grievances at the ancestral shrine whenever He Qingfeng reprimanded her. It was her killer move that made him compromise every time. After all, the person laying there was his beloved woman.

However, He Qingfeng wouldn’t give in again this time, nor did he have the right to give in.

“That move doesn’t work anymore,” He Qingfeng mumbled to himself helplessly as he headed toward the ancestral shrine.

Upon hearing the sound of He Qingfeng's footsteps, He Xiaoxiao, who was kneeling before the ancestral tablet, started putting on an act.

“Mom, open your eyes and see how is he treating me. The promise he has made to you is nothing but a piece of crap now. It's his second time hitting me because of an outsider. Wake up, Mom.” The corpse of He Xiaoxiao's mother was laid inside a glass coffin. Although many years had passed, her corpse was very well preserved, with no signs of decomposition apart from looking bloodless.

He Qingfeng's heart softened at those words until Mr. Yi's words started echoing in his ears again.

“Drop the act. They're useless now,” He Qingfeng said calmly.

“Mom, did you hear what he just said? He's actually casting me aside for an outsider,” He Xiaoxiao bawled.

“Pack up and get ready to go over to the Bronze domain,” He Qingfeng continued.

*The Bronze domain?*

He Xiaoxiao froze on the spot. *The Bronze domain wasn't a place for humans! I can't possibly move there, especially when I am the daughter of the head of the Three Halls.*

“Mom, isn't it ridiculous? He's asking me to go to the Bronze domain,” He Xiaoxiao said, then turned to look at He Qingfeng. “There's no use threatening me. No way I'm gonna apologize to that old fool.”

*Jeez, she still thinks I'm threatening her at this stage?*

“There's no point even if you want to apologize to Mr. Yi now. You have no rights to stay in the Three Halls according to the rules of the Apocalypse,” He Qingfeng said grimly.

He Xiaoxiao's heart did a somersault. *He doesn't seem to be joking... No way! How could he send me to the Bronze domain?*

“You caved in to that old fool, didn't you?” He

Xiaoxiao said through gritted teeth.

“Your mother is also a Platinum master, and she’s well aware of the significance of the existence of the Apocalypse. Even if she’s alive today, she would have punished you the same way as I did. Your willfulness is destroying the relationship between the Four Gates and the Three Halls. Given the current circumstances, the conflict between the Four Gates and the Three Halls has to be resolved.”

“You’re intimidated by Mr. Yi, aren’t you? You’re the head of the Three Halls and you’re afraid of someone from the Four Gates? Why? Can that old fool take away your identity?”

“It’s time for you to go through some hardships. Otherwise, what’s going to come is not something you can take. It’s all my fault for feeding on your spoiled behavior. I should have realized this sooner. But it’s not too late now. You can still come back to the Three Halls with your own strength.”

He Xiaoxiao balled her fists. She had thought that



it was a joke and that He Qingfeng was only scaring her in the first place. Little did she expect things to come this far and that He Qingfeng meant what he said.

“Aren’t you afraid that I’ll go and join Mom?”  
He Xiaoxiao threatened.

“I’ll order the same customize coffin for you so that you can be with your mother forever.” He Qingfeng turned on his heels and walked away, his heart bleeding.

He Xiaoxiao stood rooted to the spot. She thought she was hallucinating when she heard those words from her father, who had always been protective of her.

Die?

Did she have that kind of courage ?

Obviously, her willfulness was not enough for her to face death. She might not be afraid of anything, but she feared death.

“Han Jingru, even in death you’re still giving me trouble. You’d better stay hidden or I’ll grind your body to dust!” As Han Jingru was the source of her misfortune, He Xiaoxiao’s hatred for him had only intensified.

Meanwhile, at the Devil’s Cave, Han Jingru and Jiang Yingying had both collapsed and there was no telling whether they were dead or alive.

That little white snake was resting lazily on Han Jingru’s chest.

The giant lizard, on the other hand, was hiding in a corner while looking up at the little white snake from time to time with eyes filled with fear.

It seemed that the giant lizard was heavily injured.

At this moment, Han Jingru gave a sudden jerk of his hand.

The little white snake looked up at the giant lizard, baring its fangs.

Feeling a sense of relief, the giant lizard ran off like the wind. It was as though it couldn't leave until it made sure that Han Jingru was alive.

Han Jingru felt as if his bones were falling apart when he woke up.

“Yingying, Yingying!” He scanned around frantically for Jiang Yingying as he struggled to sit up.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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When Han Jingru saw Jiang Yingying lying on the ground in the distance, he exhausted all his strength to crawl to her side.

“Yingying, how are you?” Han Jingru tried to shake her awake, but there was no response.

He placed his finger under her nose and eventually heaved a sigh of relief after confirming that she was still breathing and had only fainted over.

He then lay on his back on the ground again. He was exhausted and needed to rest as well.

However, he couldn't help this surging doubt from his heart as he recalled what happened before he fainted.

Han Jingru was almost crushed during the battle with the giant lizard. It was a hopeless situation, and he had thought that it would be the end of him. Yet he was up and alive now and the giant lizard had disappeared into thin air.

*What's going on? I should have ended up as the giant*

*lizardiant lizard disappear?*

Han Jingru was reminded of the gorilla he encountered when he first entered the Devil's Cave, who seemed like it was fleeing in defeat after encountering a more terrifying opponent.

*Did the giant lizard disappear because of the same reason? What creature could scare away the gorilla and the giant lizard?* Han Jingru scanned his surroundings.

As he was deep in thoughts, the little white snake caught his eyes. Apart from looking a little strange, it didn't seem to be dangerous.

*Was it that snake?* Han Jingru shook his head unconsciously. *How could it scare away a gorilla and a giant lizard with that body? This little guy has probably just hatched.*

Noticing that Han Jingru was observing itself, the little white snake slithered toward the former.

“If only you can speak, then you can tell me what happened.” Han Jingru didn't show fear toward

the little white snake as his physical movement was limited. Even if the little white snake were poisonous and was to attack him, he could only suffer.

However, this seemed impossible because the little white snake had been following him for a while now. It would have attacked him a long time ago if it wanted to.

Han Jingru eventually regained his strength after resting for half a day, but it was obviously impossible for the injury on his body to recover for the time being.

Sitting up, Han Jingru turned to check on Jiang Yingying.

*There are a few cuts on her body, which aren't that serious. But how is she still unconscious? Anyway, thank goodness that she's still alive. Guess I'll just wait for her to wake up then.*

Han Jingru, who was waiting in boredom, shifted his gaze to the little white snake. Apart from its white body and crimson red eyes that looked a bit

odd, it was just an ordinary little snake. How could there be a place for this harmless little snake in the Devil's Cave?

Han Jingru tried to beckon to the little white snake, but little did he expect it to understand his gesture as it slithered toward him.

“You cold-blooded animal, I can't believe you actually understand me!” Han Jingru was astonished. It wouldn't be a big deal if this happened to a dog, but for a snake to react as such, it was simply impressive.

The little white snake lifted its head high as though it wanted to present its own uniqueness, but Han Jingru couldn't seem to make out the difference. After all, after seeing the creatures in the Devil's Cave, nothing could surprise him anymore.

“How many more creatures are there in the Devil's Cave?” Han Jingru asked, but he soon regretted for asking that.

*It could understand simple instructions, but how*

*could it understand human words and a complicated question at that? Well, unless it has evolved...*

However, what the little white snake did next could almost make his heart leaped out of his throat.

The little white snake was seen arching its head on the ground, forming a few irregular circles, seemingly to answer his question with those circles.

Han Jingru could feel a chill travelling down his spine. *This is unbelievable! The snake actually understands me!*

There were a total of six circles. It looked ugly, but the message was clear.

“T-There are six creatures here?” Han Jingru’s voice quavered.

The little white snake nodded.

Han Jingru drew in a deep breath. *It can really understand me! Has it really evol*



ved?

“Are you one of them?” Han Jingru continued.

The little white snake held his head proudly, looking as if it disdained to be associated with the other creatures.

“You’re greater than them?” Han Jingru sneered. How could this little guy be compared with the gorilla and the giant lizard he had seen earlier?

The little white snake continued to nod its head in response to Han Jingru’s question.

Han Jingru waved his hand and said, “Shoo! I’m not interested in listening to your bragging.”

At this moment, Jiang Yingying let out a moan as she writhed in pain. Han Jingru immediately focused his attention on her.

The little white snake drooped his head helplessly at the side, as though it was depressed that Han Jingru didn’t believe it.

Unbeknownst to him, the little white snake slithered deep into the cave.

“Yingying, are you all right?” Han Jingru asked.

Jiang Yingying fluttered her eyes open. The moment she regained her consciousness, she wasn't worried about herself but Han Jingru. Seeing that he was fine, she was instantly relieved.

“Thank goodness you're okay, Jingru,” Jiang Yingying said, her lips tugging into a strained smile.

“I'm fine. How are you feeling?”

“I'm fine too, just a little headache.”

Han Jingru helped Jiang Yingying to sit up against the mountain wall. Although they had survived a disaster, they knew very well that they were still not out of danger. There was still a perilous journey ahead before they could escape the Devil's Cave.

“Where’s the lizard? Did you kill it?” Jiang Yingying asked.

“I’m just about to ask you. What did you see before you passed out?” Han Jingru was dying to know about this. How were they still alive after being in that desperate situation?

“All I saw was you fighting the lizard and I passed out as soon as it started.”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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*Yingying fainted at the beginning of the fight? Strange. I was the lizard's target. How could she be implicated? Did other creatures appear at the same time as the giant lizard? Was she attacked by other creatures?*

*It's not entirely impossible, but it's strange how Yingying is unscathed. After all, these bones here have demonstrated the lethality of these creatures. She would have lost her life if she were attacked.*

“Jingru, where on earth are we? Why are there so many strange things around here?” Jiang Yingying asked in puzzlement.

Han Jingru had long thought about this question — this was probably a secret kept hidden by the Apocalypse.

Without becoming a Platinum fighter or experiencing the test of the Devil's Cave, one was not qualified to know the secrets of the Apocalypse. Mr. Yi and Fang Zhan had held their tongues before this and Han Jingru more or less knew the reason now.

They probably thought that he wouldn't believe them and the only way for him to believe was to experience it himself.

Most importantly, how could they possibly reveal such a shocking secret to others?

“This is the secret hidden by the Apocalypse and if I'm right, what we're seeing now is only the tip of the iceberg,” Han Jingru said.

The veil of mystery had been removed. As long as he could make it out alive, he would be able to get to the bottom of this. However, the current situation wasn't looking good and escaping might be an arduous task.

“Mankind would be destroyed if these creatures are allowed to roam about in major cities. How did the Apocalypse keep them here?” Jiang Yingying asked.

“I'm curious as well but I can only ask Mr. Yi if I want to know what's going on,” Han Jingru replied.

Jiang Yingying nodded and clammed up, probably aware that she had asked too much.

“Get some rest. We need to find a way to get out of here regardless,” Han Jingru said.

Jiang Yingying leaned her back against the uneven mountain walls and couldn't seem to find a comfortable spot no matter how she changed her posture.

“Lean on me. You'll feel better,” Han Jingru said.

Jiang Yingying was momentarily stunned. Gently leaning her head on Han Jingru's shoulder, she sure felt safer and a lot more comfortable.

Jiang Yingying had developed a little feelings for Han Jingru since she first met him. After all, an outstanding and handsome man like him was very attractive to girls like her. However, when she found out that he was married, she suppressed her feelings for him but now, those feelings began to sprout again and they were growing uncontrollably.

“Where’s that little white snake?” Han Jingru piped up, realizing that the little white snake that had been following them had suddenly disappeared.

“It can’t be dead, can it?” Jiang Yingying mused.

“No, I just saw it and it can understand human words.”

Jiang Yingying failed to stifle her laughter at that. “Jingru, you’re not hallucinating, are you? How could snakes understand human? I used to work in a pet shop and I’ve seen all kinds of snakes. They’re cold-blooded animal.”

“I wouldn’t believe it either if someone had told me about this in the past, but I’m telling the truth. See for yourself if you don’t believe me. I’ll prove it to you when it shows up again.”

“You’re being serious?” Jiang Yingying put on a surprised look.

“Of course, I’m serious. But I don’t know where did the little guy go.”

At that moment, Jiang Yingying's stomach rumbled. She lowered her head in embarrassment as she covered her stomach with her hands.

“Hungry?” Han Jingru chuckled. “I’m hungry too. I wonder how long has it been since we’re stuck in this cave.”

Jiang Yingying was instantly relieved of her embarrassment when he said that. After all, she was a woman, and it was embarrassing to show that side of her in front of a man. “There’s nothing for us to eat here. Are we gonna starve to death?”

“The chances of us starving to death is very little, though it is highly likely we will end up as food to those creatures,” Han Jingru joked.

As he said that, they suddenly heard footsteps approaching from a distance and their faces paled.

“Did I just jinx it?” *If another strange creature shows up when I’m currently at this state, we’ll really end up as their food.*



The sound of footsteps was getting closer. When Han Jingru saw the opponent, he could feel nothing but despair.

Not only did the giant lizard and the gorilla appear, but there were also three other creatures that he had never seen before. They all looked peculiar, but fierce nonetheless.

According to the little white snake, there were six creatures in the Devil's Cave. Now that the five of them had made their appearance, Han Jingru couldn't help but wonder if this was the end of them.

“Jingru, are we gonna die?” Jiang Yingying said in a panic.

“Yes, we're gonna die and we'll probably die with no traces left,” Han Jingru sighed, admitting his defeat.

“Jingru, since we're gonna die, there's something I want to tell you,” Jiang Yingying said, mustering up her courage in the face of death.

“What is it?”

“I-I like you.”

Han Jingru was used to receiving confessions. First, there was Shen Zhuoman, then there was Qi Bingying, Qi Ran, the soy milk girl, Yang Meng, his neighbor, and Tian Shuirou. He had always been aware of these women’s interest in him.

However, now wasn’t the right time to talk about relationships.

Han Jingru had never been a person to surrender in the face of difficulties. As long as he was still breathing, he would still fight to the end.

This was the character he had honed since childhood. No matter what happened, he would only show his tough side and never admit defeat.

“Never admit defeat until the end,” Han Jingru mumbled to himself through gritted teeth. He propped himself up against the mountain wall and forced himself to stand up in preparation for the final battle in his life.

The creatures looked hideous and ferocious, but they didn't show any hostility toward Han Jingru as they approached him. They were standing in a straight line like soldiers in the military.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Han Jingru's head was filled with a thousand questions. He had encountered the gorilla before this and though it had somehow run away, it definitely wasn't a docile creature. Not to mention the giant lizard that couldn't wait to feed on them during their first meeting—it had a docile expression on its face right now as well.

“What's going on?” Han Jingru couldn't believe his eyes.

Jiang Yingying had also put on a dazed expression. *These creatures are the cause of these bones on the ground. Why aren't they attacking us now?*

“Jingru, can they not see us?” Jiang Yingying said in a low voice.

Han Jingru laughed at that absurd statement.

*That's not how you comfort yourself. How can they approach us if they can't see us?*

“Yingying, once we get out of here, I'll send you to the hospital to get your brain checked out,”

Han Jingru teased amidst the adversity.

Jiang Yingying blew a raspberry in embarrassment.

At this moment, Han Jingru discovered that the little white snake was wrapped around the gorilla's neck and it was baring its fangs at him as if showing off to him.

Han Jingru was dumbfounded at this sight.

He had thought that the little white snake was the most harmless creature in the Devil's Cave, but it didn't seem like it now.

The little white snake slithered down the huge body of the gorilla and slithered toward Han Jingru. When it turned around, baring its fangs at the other creatures, Han Jingru could clearly see them trembling, showing their undisguised fear toward the little white snake.

Han Jingru had a nasty shock.

*These creatures are actually afraid of the little*

*guy. How can he overpower the large creatures like the giant lizard with that size?*

“They’re afraid of you?” Han Jingru asked.

The little white snake nodded.

Jiang Yingying’s mouth agape with incredulity at their interaction.

Although Han Jingru had told her that the little white snake could understand human words, she still had doubts about it. Snakes are cold-blooded animals, after all. How could they understand human words?

*This snake can actually understand what Han Jingru is talking about.*

Han Jingru was surprised as well, but it was a different kind of surprise from hers.

He couldn’t understand how did the little white snake control the other creatures. Was it possible that this little white snake was unusually powerful?

“Will they harm us?” Han Jingru added.

The little white snake slithered toward Han Jingru, crawling along his legs to his shoulders before flicking its tongue at the other creatures.

All the creatures prostrated themselves to the ground at once, showing not only fear toward the little white snake, but respect as well.

Han Jingru was all the more bewildered, but at the same time, it dawned on him that there was no longer danger in the Devil’s Cave.

It was all thanks to the little white snake on his shoulders.

Han Jingru eventually believed that the little white snake wasn’t bragging before, but another shuddering thought floated in his mind. *Not only could the little white snake understand human words, but it also has its own thoughts. Did it bring these creatures here just so it could prove that’s it’s stronger than me?*

Han Jingru drew in a deep breath. The journey to

the Devil's Cave had been an eye-opening experience, but it was the little white snake's performance that amazed him the most. Apart from not being able to speak, it had totally mirrored the behavior of a human. It could communicate and even find ways to prove what Han Jingru didn't believe in.

Now that the danger had been removed, Han Jingru heaved a sigh of relief and said to Jiang Yingying, "There's nothing to be afraid now. These creatures won't hurt us."

Jiang Yingying glanced at the little white snake in amazement.

"Jingru, are we going out now?" Jiang Yingying asked gingerly.

Escaping the Devil's Cave had been Han Jingru's first priority before this, but now it seemed that he was not in a hurry as he wanted to explore the cave.

"Hey, little guy. Is there anything to eat here?" Han Jingru asked the little white snake. They



were both famished and needed to replenish their energy first.

The little white snake slithered down his shoulder and led the way.

Han Jingru followed closely behind, while Jiang Yingying grabbed on to his sleeve tightly, not daring to let go.

“Jingru, this snake can really understand human words. It couldn’t have evolved, could it?” Jiang Yingying asked softly.

“I don’t know. All these mysteries can only be solved once we get out of here and this secret is likely to make us see things in a different light.” This was what Han Jingru had felt the moment he stepped into the Devil’s Cave. He could vaguely feel that this world was not as simple as it seemed to be. There were many unknown things to be discovered which these creatures in the Devil’s Cave had proven so.

They followed the little white snake to a small entrance of a meandering path. There was an

appetizing aroma coming out from the Devil's Cave which was initially filled with a foul smell.

The inside of the entrance was a large circular space. Although there were no traces of human activity, the environment was a thousand times better than the other places in the Devil's Cave.

“I can't believe there's such a nice place in the Devil's Cave. It doesn't smell at all.” Jiang Yingying breathed in the fresh air with enjoyment written on her face.

Han Jingru didn't expect this place to be a world of its own as well. However, there didn't seem to be anything that could fill their stomachs.

“Where's the food, little guy?” Han Jingru asked the little white snake.

The little white snake crawled into the vines on the wall and soon appeared with a red fruit in its mouth. The fruit was the size of a cherry tomato.

Han Jingru walked through the vines and saw that there were many such fruits with bright colors

inside. Although they looked appetizing, he knew that he couldn't eat it without knowing what it was, lest the food was poisonous.

“It's not poisonous, is it?” Han Jingru asked.

As the little white snake shook its head, Han Jingru popped one fruit in his mouth. He bit through the peel and found that it was sweet and juicy. For Han Jingru, who was already famished, it was a good treat to quell his hunger.

“It tastes pretty good. Give it a try,” Han Jingru said to Jiang Yingying.

The both of them couldn't stop themselves after having the first one, not realizing that the little white snake was looking distressed at the side.



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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At the domain of the Four Gates.

Since the great commotion from the Devil's Cave, almost everyone had assumed that Han Jingru was dead.

Mr. Yi, feeling depressed, had never left the Four Gates since that day.

This incident was a huge blow to him. He had placed all his hope—including that of Apocalypse's—on Han Jingru. He had hoped that Han Jingru would pass the test of the Devil's Cave, so that he could stir the confidence of the others in this matter.

He had hoped for Han Jingru to lead the Four Gates once he became a Platinum fighter so that he could explore what was going on in the second world without any burden.

However, with Han Jingru's death, his hopes and dreams had shattered. Not only did it feed the fear of the Gold fighter, but it also became a pipe dream for the Four Gates to cultivate a gatekeeper.

“You don’t have to worry too much about this, Mr. Yi. Perhaps it is decreed by fate that Han Jingru is not the one to take up this role,” the assistant said.

Mr. Yi was depressed because the Apocalypse would only continue to move down south with Han Jingru’s death. He presumed that no one would dare to challenge the Devil’s Cave anymore since Han Jingru failed to complete the Devil’s Cave’s challenge.

“Do you know how big of an impact Han Jingru’s death has caused to the Apocalypse?” Mr. Yi sighed.

The assistant naturally understood his meaning. But what was the point of dwelling over something that couldn’t be undone?

“Perhaps you can place your hope on Lin Tong. He’s the Chosen One, after all. If he can pass the test of the Devil’s Cave, he can change the people’s perception on the Devil’s Cave,” the assistant suggested tentatively.

*Lin Tong?*

Mr. Yi's lips quirked up into a faint smile. Lin Tong had long since qualified to take up the challenge, but he had never volunteered himself to do so. This only proved that Lin Tong was a coward and putting his hope on him was utter nonsense.

“Do you think Lin Tong is up for the challenge? And can you predict what will happen to the Apocalypse if he dies in the Devil's Cave as well?” Mr. Yi said.

The assistant could only sigh, knowing that the Apocalypse was done for if tragedy befell Lin Tong as well. The downfall of two masters would only further traumatize the others.

“Let's not overthink, Mr. Yi. Things will work out eventually. I believe there will be a change in the Apocalypse,” the assistant said.

“The second world is on the move and time is running out for the Apocalypse, but there is nothing I can do about it as the head of the Four

Gates.” Mr. Yi let out a self-deprecating laugh.  
“I’m a useless leader, aren’t I?”

The assistant looked surprised.

*How is he useless? He must be worn out to have that thought.*

“Don’t say that, Mr. Yi. The Four Gates still need your leadership,” the assistant said hastily.

At this time, Fang Zhan came to the two of them, looking pale. He said to Mr. Yi, “Mr. Yi, I heard that Yun City is looking for Han Jingru. Something must have happened.”

“Make a trip to Yun City and inform them about Han Jingru’s death,” Mr. Yi said. It was a matter of time before they reported to Yun City and there was no need to hide the truth.

Fang Zhan’s expression darkened.

*Wouldn’t those people be disappointed once they learn about the news? I still need the Nangong family’s help to look for my daughter. If Nangong Boling learns about Han Jingru’s death, he will definitely cease his investigation.*

“Aren’t you gonna wait for a little longer, Mr. Yi?” Fang Zhan asked.

“Why? Are you still hoping to see Han Jingru’s dead body? Since when has there ever been a corpse of someone who died in the Devil’s Cave?” Mr. Yi replied.

As someone who had passed the test of the Devil’s Cave, Fang Zhan naturally knew about the skeletal white bones that filled the Devil’s Cave and that the creatures in it fed on human flesh. If Han Jingru had died, he would definitely end up as food to those creatures, so how could he possibly see his corpse?

“Go on. There’s no need to hide this matter. Let them know earlier so that they can make the necessary arrangements.” Mr. Yi paused, and then added, “Do your best to assist them if they need any help.”

“Understood.” Fang Zhan had no other choice but to obey his orders.



At Yun City, famous doctors from all over the world had arrived and gathered at the entrance of the neighborhood of Genting Villa, awaiting orders.

Shi Yan looked at the old and white-haired Su Yimo, feeling extremely distressed.

Many other symptoms had begun to show since she became old overnight. She had been aging almost every day at a speed that was appalling to the naked eye. Su Yimo, who was in her twenties, now looked like a middle-aged woman in her forties.

“Yimo, the doctors are here. Let them take a look at you,” Shi Yan persuaded.

Su Yimo didn't dare to face this matter. She didn't even dare to look at herself in the mirror. She refused to be examined by these doctors because she was afraid to face the worst scenario.

“Mom, I'm fine, really.” Su Yimo looked down at Han Xiang in her arms. She was afraid that she couldn't wait until the day Han Jingru came back

and the day when Han Xiang grew up.

Su Yimo wasn't afraid of death; she was afraid that there would be no one to look after Han Xiang after she died.

“I know you'll be fine, but since the doctors are here, why not just let them take a look at you? They're all famous doctors whom Nangong Boling has invited from all over the world. I'm sure they'll find a way,” Shi Yan said.

Su Yimo shook her head. In fact, she had already searched it up on the Internet that this condition of hers should be adult progeria. At present, there was no cure to this disease and that was a fact that no one could change.

“Mom, just send them away. I don't want to see anyone right now. Stop forcing me,” Su Yimo said.

Shi Yan glanced at Han Xiuzhi and Su Wenlun anxiously, who shook their heads in return. No one could get through Su Yimo once she had decided on something.

Standing up, Shi Yan walked out of the villa.

Both Mo Lan and Nangong Boling were waiting at the courtyard.

“How is it? Is Yimo going to see the doctors?” Mo Lan asked as he walked over hurriedly when he saw the former.

“She’s strongly against this. I’ve tried to persuade her in any way that I can, but she just won’t listen,” Shi Yan said dejectedly.

“What should we do now? She can’t just drag this on and on,” Mo Lan said anxiously.

“I don’t know. She’s aging faster and faster. If we don’t control it, I’m afraid...”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



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Although Shi Yan did not articulate her thoughts, Mo Lan and Nangong Boling clearly understood what she was trying to say.

“Let me give it a shot,” said Mo Lan through gritted teeth. He could not stand idly by and let the situation worsen. Now that Han Jingru had left Yun City, he needed to shoulder the responsibility of protecting Su Yimo and Han Xiang. Nothing must happen to them during this period of time.

Nangong Boling felt very worried too. It was not easy for him to finally glimpse a glimmer of hope of going to the Apocalypse. Hence, he did not want to anger Han Jingru with Su Yimo’s death.

“Judging from Mo Lan’s relationship with Jingru, he has a chance of persuading Su Yimo. Let him try,” suggested Nangong Boling.

Shi Yan glanced at Mo Lan. She had already used all the methods at her disposal, but Su Yimo was still refusing to confront this issue. In her opinion, it would be futile even if Mo Lan tried.

However, now that they were left with no other solutions, there might still be a chance of success if Mo Lan gave it a shot.

“Okay, you can try,” said Shi Yan as she nodded.

Standing at the entrance of the villa, Mo Lan took a deep breath before pushing the door and entering.

Mo Lan had not seen Su Yimo today yet. However, when he spotted her in the living room, a look of grief crossed his face.

Su Yimo looked like she had aged a lot from yesterday. The rapid speed at which she was ageing made Mo Lan’s heart ache.

“Yimo, the doctors are here. I’ll arrange for you to meet them, okay?” Mo Lan went straight to the point. Su Yimo was not foolish—she must have already guessed why he came here.

“Mr. Mo, I don’t want to see anyone now. Tell them to leave,” uttered Su Yimo.

“Yimo, I know how you’re feeling. But now that things have come to this stage, what’s the use of escaping reality? Han Xiang still needs your care. Can you bear to abandon her just like that? If Jingru doesn’t see you after he returns, how will he feel? Your illness is not a terminal disease. There must be a way to cure it. You mustn’t give up hope!” encouraged Mo Lan.

Lowering her head, Su Yimo remained silent as she gazed at Han Xiang snuggling in her arms obediently. How could she ever bear to abandon Han Xiang?

Furthermore, Han Jingru had not returned after going to Apocalypse. Su Yimo was even more reluctant to leave this man who had been secretly protecting her all along.

“Healthcare is so advanced nowadays and our family is rich. There are no diseases that will render us helpless. If you haven’t tried it out, how can you be so certain that it’ll be futile?” Mo Lan continued.

“Yeah, Yimo. These doctors are not like the

quack doctors in the past. They surely must have a solution.” Shi Yan chimed in.

Su Wenlun walked toward Su Yimo and persuaded softly, “You’re Han Xiang’s mother. She needs your care now. If something bad happened to you, what should she do? Can you bear to make Xiang lose her mother?”

Su Yimo wiped her tears away. She did not want to abandon Han Jingru and Han Xiang.

“Let them come in.” Su Yimo finally relented.

Mo Lan heaved a sigh of relief. Luckily, Su Yimo stopped refusing. Otherwise, he did not know how to persuade her anymore.

“Okay, I’ll see to it right away!” Mo Lan walked out of the villa briskly.

Nangong Boling asked eagerly, “How is it? Is she willing to see the doctors?”

“Tell them to come here all at once. Afterwards, they shall discuss a plan. Warn them that if they

can't come up with a solution, they will not be able to leave Yun City," instructed Mo Lan.

Nangong Boling was even more ruthless than Mo Lan. As his wish to go to the Apocalypse still depended on Han Jingru, he naturally did not want anything bad to happen to Su Yimo.

"Don't worry. If they can't think of a solution, I'll not let them off the hook," assured Nangong Boling.

Recently, numerous doctors have been constantly appearing at the Genting Villa. Now that there was a huge batch of famous doctors from overseas rushing there, it created a commotion in Yun City.

Naturally, many people carefully discussed it in private. As this had something to do with the residents in Genting Villa, they did not dare to gossip wildly. It would not be worth the effort if they ended up bringing trouble to themselves.

After Su Ruijin's company went bankrupt, he had become a commoner now. Struggling to sustain



himself through taking up odd jobs, he lived a miserable life.

He was also paying close attention to the recent updates in Genting Villa. He knew that a resident there must have been diagnosed with a serious illness. Otherwise, no one would be so influential as to summon so many renowned doctors from all over the world there.

“Ruijin, do you know what happened to the Han family?” Su Huiqi was still trying her best to marry into a rich family, but no wealthy heirs took a liking to her. Furthermore, as everyone knew about her poor relationship with Han Jingru, even ordinary families stayed distance away from Su Huiqi, afraid that they would get into trouble because of her.

“Perhaps Su Yimo or Han Xiang got diagnosed with a terminal disease,” said Su Ruijin with a smile. Although it was impossible for him to make a comeback now, he was still delighted to see what was happening at the Genting Villa. This was the perfect opportunity for him to add insult to injury.

“Although news about it is mostly censored, the local doctors vaguely revealed that Su Yimo is sick. How big of a possibility do you think there is?” asked Su Huiqi.

“Isn’t it only natural for a b\*\*\*\* like Su Yimo to fall sick? Even the heavens cannot stand a b\*\*\*\* like her and want to teach her a lesson,” spat Su Ruijin, clenching his jaw. When the Su family was in its greatest glory, he could bully Su Yimo in whatever way he wanted. However, while she had now become such a big shot, he had to toil away in the construction site just to earn a living. This drastic reversal filled Su Ruijin with great indignance.

Su Ruijin would curse Su Yimo a couple of times each day, not even sparing a little baby like Han Xiang.

“If only we can visit her. I really want to know what illness she has,” lamented Su Huiqi, thinking that it was a great pity. She had no right to enter the Genting Villa so easily anymore. In fact, she did not even dare to go near the entrance of the villa. After all, Mo Lan had warned that the

consequences would be dire if they ventured near the area.

“In my opinion, she must have messed around with other men outside and contracted a sexually transmitted disease because Han Jingru isn’t always at home. Haha! Han Jingru is being blatantly cheated on,” said Su Ruijin as he laughed.

An idea suddenly flashed across Su Huiqi’s mind. Her eyes gleamed as she asked, “Why don’t we think of a way to spread this rumor? We’ll let the entire Yun City see the slut, Su Yimo’s true colors!”

When Su Ruijin heard her suggestion, he immediately jumped to his feet. Looking extremely interested, he exclaimed, “This is a good idea! Regardless of whether it’s true, we can still defame Su Yimo with it. However, we must be careful to not reveal that we’re the ones who spread it. Otherwise, we’ll be doomed if Mo Lan finds out.”

At Genting Villa, the doctors did not directly make a conclusion after observing Su Yimo's condition.

Nangong Boling had specifically instructed them not to do that. He did not want Su Yimo to know too much about her illness as he did not want to stress her out more.

Using the excuse of discussing the illness, all the doctors left Genting Villa. Nangong Boling brought them to Peninsula Hotel, which had already been completely booked by Mo Lan. There were special personnel guarding each exit, preventing outsiders from entering and the doctors from sneaking out.

Although the public yearned to get some updates, their attempts were futile because the hotel was completely sealed. However, at this moment, a rumor, whose origin was unknown, created a huge commotion in Yun City.

“Have you heard? Su Yimo contracted a disease because she had affairs with other men. That's why there are so many doctors visiting the

Genting Villa.”

“Is that reliable? Su Yimo doesn’t seem like such a woman.”

“It’s normal for her to feel lonely because Han Jingru isn’t at home all the time. Who doesn’t have a bit of sexual desire? Anyway, this rumor seems to be true. Otherwise, why are they keeping it a secret?”

“Yeah, if it’s not some shameful disease, why would they be scared of others finding out?”

Such rumors spread across Yun City rapidly. Many people were secretly delighted by news of Han Jingru being cheated on.

Despite being the most influential figure in Yun City, many people eagerly gossiped about the couple with an intent to mock Han Jingru. In fact, this had become one of the hottest topics in town.

Back in the Tian family’s residence, Tian Honghui and Tian Jingshuo were sitting in the living room. Tian Honghui carefully asked, “Dad,

have you heard about Su Yimo's disease?"

Tian Jingshuo frowned. *I wonder which bastard is spreading such a scandalous rumor about Su Yimo and trying to defame her.*

Tian Jingshuo knew what kind of person Su Yimo was. Furthermore, as Tian Shuirou often visited Genting Villa, he knew that Su Yimo had been staying at home all day and taking care of her child. How was it possible for her to do such an immoral thing?

As for Su Yimo's illness, he had heard Tian Shuirou mention it. It was not a sexually transmitted disease at all.

"Do you know where this rumor came from?" asked Tian Jingshuo sternly.

Tian Honghui shook his head. As the rumor was so widely spread across Yun City, it was not easy to investigate the source of it. Furthermore, he did not dare to intervene so easily.

"I don't know. However, everyone's discussing it

now and many believe it too,” replied Tian Honghui.

“Mo Lan will know about this soon enough. He’ll probably find out who is the mastermind behind this. I wonder which reckless idiots did it. How dare they mess around with the Su family?” exclaimed Tian Jingshuo in disdain.

At that moment, Tian Shuirou returned home. When they saw her, they immediately stopped their discussion. If this girl found out, she would probably fly into a rage.

“What are you guys talking about? Why did you stop talking when you saw me?” asked Tian Shuirou as she stared at them suspiciously.

“Oh, you’re back. How is it? I heard that Yimo has already seen those doctors. What did they say?” asked Tian Jingshuo.

Tian Shuirou shook her head helplessly. Su Yimo’s condition was deteriorating as time passed. After observing her, the doctors left without saying anything. Hence, even she did not

know what was going on.

“I’m not too sure about that. The doctors returned to their hotel to discuss her illness. I don’t know if there’ll be a cure.” Tian Shuirou slumped on the couch after speaking.

Watching Su Yimo become weaker each day, Tian Shuirou felt extremely upset. She even wished to bear the pain on Su Yimo’s behalf. After all, Han Xiang was too young to lose her mother.

“Don’t worry. In my opinion, nothing bad will happen. The doctors are world renowned specialists. They’ll definitely find a solution,” assured Tian Jingshuo.

“Grandpa, what were you talking about with Dad?” With Tian Shuirou’s sensitive personality, she noticed that Tian Jingshuo was trying to change the topic of conversation.

Sensing their evasiveness, she sat up straight and asked again, “What’s up with the both of you? What happened?”



Tian Honghui glanced at Tian Jingshuo. Now that this rumor had been circulating throughout Yun City, Tian Shuirou would definitely hear it soon. It was futile even if they kept it a secret from her now.

Hence, Tian Jingshuo nodded. After getting his permission, Tian Honghui said, “Shuirou, don’t get too riled up when I tell you about it.”

“Dad, you’re underestimating me. I’m a mature and calm person now. I won’t get agitated so easily,” assured Tian Shuirou.

“Well, there’s a rumor in Yun City saying that Su Yimo has cheated on Han Jingru and contracted a scandalous illness,” said Tian Honghui.

Tian Shuirou, who initially promised that she would not get agitated, instantly flew into a rage.

“Who? Which bastard dares to say something like that?” Tian Shuirou clenched her fists and yelled furiously.

Tian Jingshuo and Tian Honghui had already

expected her reaction. After all, she had been visiting Genting Villa so frequently that it was like her second home. Han Jingru and Su Yimo were so close to her that she treated them as her siblings. She would never accept anyone slandering them.

“There are a lot of people talking about it now. So, we really don’t know who started it,” explained Tian Honghui.

Furious, Tian Shuirou spun around and left, looking like she was going to head out.

Tian Jingshuo quickly asked, “Shuiruo, it’s time to eat soon. Where are you going?”

“I’m going to find the culprit and beat him up so badly that he’ll remain crippled for the rest of his life,” replied Tian Shuirou coldly.

Tian Jingshuo shook his head exasperatedly. When Tian Shuirou was so furious like this, even he was powerless to stop her.

“Dad, nothing bad will happen, right?” asked

Tian Honghui worriedly.

“What can possibly happen? Your daughter is practically like Han Jingru’s sister. Who dares to harm her? Don’t worry. It’s a good thing for her to investigate this matter too. After all, it’s important to dispel such rumors as soon as possible. If it spreads to the Genting Villa and Su Yimo learns about it, the consequences will be worse,” assured Tian Jingshuo.

After Tian Shuirou left home, she called some people and arranged for a meeting. Then, she slammed her foot against the accelerator. The engine roared as the car sped out of the Tian family’s residence, its tires screeching against the asphalt road. Only a trail of smoke was left behind.

When Tian Shuirou arrived at the Qingyuan Café, a few youngsters had been waiting at the entrance for a long time. After receiving her call, they instantly rushed over. After all, as Tian Shuirou was almost like Han Jingru’s sister, these young wealthy heirs did not dare to defy her orders.

“Shuirou.”

“Shuirou.”

“Shuirou.”

Tian Shuirou glanced at them. They were her friends who were quite influential in Yun City.

“Let’s go in and talk,” replied Tian Shuirou solemnly.

Noticing her icy expression, they vaguely guessed what had happened. They followed Tian Shuirou closely as they entered the café.



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Despite their usual proud and arrogant demeanor, these young heirs sat upright in attention in front of Tian Shuirou. They were as docile as rabbits, not even daring to utter a single word.

“Looks like you’ve already known about it?” asked Tian Shuirou coldly.

Her words gave these youngsters a huge shock. Naturally, they knew what Tian Shuirou was talking about. They had also discussed it privately and even believed it to be true. However, in front of Tian Shuirou, they did not dare to show that they believed it.

“Shuirou, are you talking about someone defaming Su Yimo?” One of the brighter ones asked Tian Shuirou.

When she heard that, her fury diminished a little. *At least they know that Su Yimo is being defamed.*

“Why didn’t you tell me?” demanded Tian Shuirou.

“Shuirou, we don’t even believe in such a ridiculous lie.”

“Yeah! We don’t know which foolish dude dared to say such a thing. Actually, we’ve been secretly investigating who the culprit is.”

“Yeah, we planned to tell you after finding out who spread the rumor.”

Tian Shuirou gazed at them suspiciously. With their personalities, it was impossible for them to be bothered about this. Considering how they spent most of their time partying in nightclubs, they would not spend their effort on this.

“Really? Since you’ve been investigating, what have you discovered?” asked Tian Shuirou.

“We didn’t receive any news yet. The rumor has spread so rapidly that there are too many people talking about it. Hence, it’s challenging to find the person who started it. However, don’t worry. We’ll definitely find out the truth.”

“Yeah. As long as the culprit is from Yun City,

we will definitely find him. All we need is time.”

“Believe us, Shuirou. This concerns Mr. Han, so we’ll certainly take it seriously.”

Although the rich youngsters promised her so confidently, Tian Shuirou was not expecting too much from them. After all, other than being wealthy, they lacked any real capabilities. Furthermore, their social connections were only limited to women.

“Since I have summoned you here, I naturally hope that you’ll help me with this. Before the truth is revealed, I’ll not let any of you off the hook if you don’t treat this seriously.”

After a short pause, Tian Shuirou continued, “If I find out that you’re still wasting your time away in nightclubs, don’t blame me for being ruthless.”

“Understood. Don’t worry, we’ll definitely investigate this to the best of our abilities.”

“Before we find out the truth, we will not entertain ourselves at all.”

“You must start investigating from the lower classes first. Truly influential figures probably don’t dare to create such rumors,” suggested Tian Shuirou.

The important people in Yun City clearly knew the dire consequences of offending Han Jingru. If they wanted to continue staying in Yun City, they would never dare to slander Su Yimo. Hence, in Tian Shuirou’s opinion, the culprit was most likely someone insignificant.

The rest of them nodded and promised Tian Shuirou that they would find out the culprit in the shortest time possible.

After Tian Shuirou left the café, the young and rich heirs revealed a despaired look.

They had planned to seek out hot girls in the nightclubs tonight. Yet, they no longer dared to go now.

“Oh no, our plan for tonight has gone down the drains. I didn’t expect Tian Shuirou to ask us to investigate this.”



“Yeah! While she can visit Genting Villa and win their favor, we get nothing in return.”

“Shut up! If it’s not for our families’ collaboration with the Tian family, we wouldn’t be so rich. It’s only right for Tian Shuirou to order us around. There’s nothing to complain about. If you want to play, quickly finish this task. Mobilize your social networks and investigate this matter as quickly as possible.”

After Tian Shuirou left, she headed to Mojo, intending to let Mo Lan know about this. Currently, he wielded control over the largest underworld territory in Yun City. If she asked him to investigate this matter, the progress would be much faster.

As for those rich heirs, Tian Shuirou did not place much hope on them. She merely treated them as a pair of extra helping hands so as to increase their chances of finding the culprit.

“Mr. Mo, Tian Shuirou is here.” Yang Yong reported to Mo Lan.

“Let her in.” Tian Shuirou’s status in Genting Villa was indisputable. Mo Lan also treated her as his little sister.

“Lan, you’ve probably heard the rumors about Yimo, right?” asked Tian Shuirou as she walked into Mo Lan’s office.

“Yes. I’ve already sent my men to investigate it. I believe that we’ll know the outcome soon,” replied Mo Lan. When he first heard about it, he was seething as well. The person who spread the rumor was taking a huge risk by claiming that Han Jingru had been cheated on.

“Do you have a suspect?” asked Tian Shuirou.

Mo Lan had a few specific suspects in mind. There were not a lot of people in Yun City who dared to offend Han Jingru—after all, no one would willingly seek for their death.

“Shuirou, do you think that this has something to do with Su Ruijin and Su Huiqi?” asked Mo Lan.

Tian Shuirou clearly knew how vicious this pair

of siblings were. After going bankrupt, they had become one of the poorest citizens in the city.

“I heard that Su Ruijin had to work in construction sites to earn a living. As for Su Huiqi, she still desires to marry into a rich family. Whenever she sees someone wealthy, she will throw herself into their arms. Although they brought this life of misery upon themselves, Jingru played a huge role too. Perhaps, they are the ones behind this,” deduced Tian Shuirou coldly.

Mo Lan nodded. Those were his exact thoughts. However, as there was no evidence, he could not confirm if the both of them were the culprits.

“I’ll ask my men to focus their investigation on them. If they’re the ones who did this, I’ll make them regret it,” said Mo Lan.

Tian Shuirou suddenly had an idea. *Isn't it Su Huiqi's constant wish to marry into a rich family? If I fulfil her wish, I can probably pry some information from her.*

“Lan, I have a plan. Don’t investigate these two yet and alert them.” With that, Tian Shuirou whipped out her phone.

After dialing a number, she said, “Chen Yi, I have a task for you—pursue Su Huiqi.”

Chen Yi was one of those young rich heirs from earlier. He knew who Su Huiqi was. After all, she had a horrible reputation in their social circle. She was unscrupulous when trying to get acquainted with wealthy people, often dressing up in a lavish manner. In fact, she had been toyed by countless men.

“Shuirou, why do I have to pursue a slut like Su Huiqi?” asked Chen Yi, confused.

“Just do it first. I have a subsequent task for you,” replied Tian Shuirou.

Although Chen Yi was not interested in Su Huiqi, who was disdained by everyone else, he had no choice but to follow Tian Shuirou's request.

He was extremely skilled in seducing women. Furthermore, as Su Huiqi was just a materialistic woman, it was a piece of cake for him to deal with her.

“Sure. However, you must pay for my expenses afterwards,” said Chen Yi with a smile.

“Doesn't your family want to be involved in Chengzhong Village? As long as you accomplish this task well, I'll give you a chance,” offered Tian Shuirou. The Tian family was involved in the Chengzhong Village project, so it was very easy for Tian Shuirou to share some benefits with Chen Yi's family.

“Really? You aren't kidding, right?” Chen Yi was so surprised that his jaw dropped. His family had been troubled over this recently. If he could accomplish such a feat, no one would say that he only knew how to squander his life away.

“When have I joked with you before?” replied Tian Shuirou.

“Thank you, Shuirou. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely do a good job and follow your instructions for your plan.” Chen Yi was not a fool either. Tian Shuirou would not ask him to pursue Su Huiqi for no good reason—there must be a motive hidden behind this. However, regardless of what it was, Chen Yi would accomplish his task at all costs so the Chen family could participate in the Chengzhong Village project.

After hanging up the call, Tian Shuirou said to Mo Lan, “Lan, how’s my plan?”

Although Tian Shuirou did not articulate her plan, Mo Lan was intelligent enough to guess it.

Su Huiqi was someone who put money above everything else. Her greatest dream was to marry into a rich family. If Chen Yi pursued her, she would instantly grasp that opportunity. When the time was right, Chen Yi could try to pry some information from her. She would definitely reveal if she were the culprit who slandered Su Yimo.

After all, women in love were foolish, let alone someone like Su Huiqi who was so smitten with money.

“It’s a good plan. In that case, I’ll leave Su Huiqi to you. I’ll investigate the other areas and see if someone else did it,” said Mo Lan.

Meanwhile, Fang Zhan had just landed at Yun City’s airport.

Although Yun City was not a familiar place to him, he felt extremely somber upon returning here. The news he brought would prove to be a fatal blow to the Han family. He already expected Nangong Boling to immediately leave Yun City after hearing about Han Jingru’s death. He might even vent his rage on the other members of the Han family.

“I didn’t expect myself to be in such a bad mood upon returning here,” mumbled Fang Zhan as he sighed.

When he left the airport, he did not directly head to the Genting Villa.

He actually had some personal motives this time. With his own abilities, it was impossible for him to find out his daughter's whereabouts. This was a conclusion he had reached after years of futile efforts. After he left the Apocalypse, he had exhausted all possible methods. It was only after he lost all hope that he decided to go into seclusion.

However, with the help of Nangong family's vast network across the globe, the probability of finding his daughter would be much higher. Fang Zhan did not want to lose such a precious opportunity.

To Fang Zhan, his daughter was his last motivation for living in this world. If he could not find her, he had nothing to live for anymore.

An idea surfaced in his mind. He would not inform them about Han Jingru's death yet. Instead, he would only mention it to them after Nangong Boling discovered his daughter's whereabouts.

Although this was a selfish act, Fang Zhan was



left with no choice.

“Jingru, please accept my apology. I really can’t do it.” After saying that, he looked for a hotel to stay in.

Mo Lan had great control over everything that happened in Yun City. Hence, he was instantly informed about Fang Zhan’s arrival in the city.

Although he did not know who Fang Zhan was, he knew that Fang Zhan was aware of Han Jingru’s whereabouts. Now that Su Yimo’s illness was worsening, Nangong Boling had been trying to relay the news to Han Jingru. However, all his efforts had been futile.

Since Fang Zhan had returned to Yun City, he must be able to pass the message on to Han Jingru.

“Mr. Mo, should we go and look for Fang Zhan?” Lin Heng asked Mo Lan.

“Of course. However, we don’t need to make a huge scene. He returned discreetly probably

because he doesn't want to attract too much attention. I'll just go myself," replied Mo Lan.

After leaving Mojo, he went to Fang Zhan's hotel and asked the receptionist, "I'm looking for someone called Fang Zhan. Which room is he staying in?"

The receptionist was filing her nails. When she heard Mo Lan's question, she replied without even raising her head, "I'm sorry, but we cannot simply reveal our guests' private information."

This was the most basic professional conduct one should have. In the past, Mo Lan would not have made things difficult for her. However, as he eagerly wanted to meet Fang Zhan, he turned impatient.

"Tell your manager to come here. He'll know if he should tell me or not," ordered Mo Lan coldly.

When the receptionist heard that, she raised her head disdainfully and sized Mo Lan up. *He's just a middle-aged man. Why is he speaking in such an arrogant manner and calling for my manager?*

“I’m sorry, but it won’t matter even if my manager came. This is our hotel’s rules,” replied the receptionist.

“If your manager’s words are ineffective, inform your boss. Who came up with the hotel’s rules? Just change them now,” said Mo Lan.

The receptionist could not help but burst out laughing. *This guy is so presumptuous. Not satisfied with meeting the manager, he’s even demanding to meet the boss and telling him to change the rules! Who does he think he is?*

“Sir, stop joking around. Who do you think you are? Do you think that you can meet my boss so easily? Leave now. Otherwise, I’ll tell the security guards to chase you away,” scoffed the receptionist.

*Bam!*

Mo Lan slammed his fist on the counter, causing the receptionist to shudder in fear.

“What are you doing? How dare you create a

ruckus here? Do you know who owns this hotel?" She yelled at Mo Lan furiously.

"I do want to know who owns this hotel. Why don't you tell me? I'll talk to him when I'm free later," replied Mo Lan with a cold smirk.

At that moment, a chubby middle-aged man walked in, wearing a formal suit with a manager's badge pinned to his chest. Initially, he was leisurely inspecting the hotel. However, his expression froze the moment he spotted Mo Lan.

*I-Isn't he Mr. Mo?*

*Why is he here? He looks furious too!*

*Did the ignorant receptionist offend him?*

The manager was terrified by this thought. If his boss found out that he offended Mo Lan, not only would he be fired, but he would also be unable to stay in Yun City anymore.

Hence, the chubby middle-aged man quickly dashed toward Mo Lan.

The receptionist, who was shocked by Mo Lan earlier, saw her manager rushing to the scene and regained her confidence in a split of a second.

“Didn’t you want to see our manager? There he is! But I shall warn you he’s not someone easy to deal with, so you might want to tone down your attitude a little.”

Mo Lan turned his head around disdainfully to look in the direction of the middle-aged man coming to him.

*Pfft, he’s not someone easy to deal with?*

“I just love to entertain people who are not easy to deal with,” Mo Lan replied smugly.

“Well, I have already given you my heartfelt advice. I don’t care what happens to you later.” The girl rolled her eyes.

“Mr. Mo, to what do we owe the pleasure of having you here?” The manager approached Mo Lan and greeted him politely.

The middle-aged man, who was merely an

inconsequential manager from a hotel, did not dare to offend Mo Lan, who was a top dog in the underworld of Yun City.

The receptionist's jaws hit the ground. A beat ago, she was just hoping for her manager to give the roguish dude a lesson.

As the founder of the hotel was a big shot in Yun City, the managers at the hotel would always ride on the coattails of the head honcho and tear down the usual customers that weren't willing to comply.

Anyone who dared to make a fuss in the hotel would be kicked out without mercy.

As Mo Lan was making a scene in the hotel, the receptionist expected with no doubt that her manager would throw him out. Much to her surprise, her manager was so servile towards him.

“You people sure have a lot of regulations in place. Even I have to abide by them?” Mo Lan uttered.

The manager winced a little. At once, he knew the receptionist must have said something that displeased Mo Lan.

“Are you blind? It’s Mr. Mo! Apologize to him at once!” The manager howled at the receptionist.

All of a moment, the girl was in trepidation. “But it’s not my fault! Mr. Mo here wanted to look at the records of our other guests. How I can give him what he wants? It goes against the privacy regulations of our premise.”

“Oh gosh, you foolish girl! All rules in our hotel are inapplicable to Mr. Mo. Do you want me to lose my job?”

After chiding his staff, the manager quickly spoke to Mo Lan, “Mr. Mo, what information do you want to know? I’ll get to it right away!”

Mo Lan didn’t want to threaten the hotel staff with his status, but he needed to learn which room Fang Zhan was in urgently. Now that he got what he wanted, there was no need for him to be rough towards the hotel staff anymore.

“Look up Fang Zhan. Which room is he staying in?”

The manager side-eyed the receptionist. *Oh lord, why is this girl still standing there? Is she trying to piss me off?*

“What are you doing idling there? Go and look up Fang Zhan’s room!” The manager bellowed.

“A-Alright! I’ll look it up right now!” The poor girl was full of nerves.

In less than a minute, the receptionist returned with Fang Zhan’s room number.

Mo Lan took off in the direction of the elevator at once. He had no more time to pursue the matter with the disrespectful receptionist.

The manager was quivering in a cold sweat. He was even worried now Mo Lan left without saying anything. *Crap, is he going to report me? Will I lose my job?*

“What’s the matter with you? Can you not



recognize that person is Mo Lan?” The manager chastised the receptionist with his teeth clenched.

*Mo Lan!*

The receptionist could hear a deafening boom in her head. Having lived in Yun City for her entire life, of course she knew who was Mo Lan.

What she did not expect was that Mo Lan would manifest in the form of such an ordinary-looking middle-aged man.

The receptionist swallowed a mouthful of saliva as she recalled how she intimidated Mo Lan earlier.

“I-I didn’t know he’s Mo Lan!” The receptionist was so fear-stricken that her whole body was shaking, but there was no use crying over spilled milk.

The manager was also trembling himself. Even the big boss of the hotel would have to bear the consequences for offending such an influential person in Yun City.

“What did you say to him just now?”

The receptionist’s face was paper white. “I don’t really remember what I said to him.”

“You dumb girl, think! What did you say to him just now? Or else you don’t have to come back to work anymore.” The manager was seething.

The receptionist tried her best to repeat what she said to Mo Lan to her manager.

When he heard that Mo Lan wanted to have a chat with the boss of the hotel, he felt his knees gave in and fell sitting on the floor.

*Have a chat with the boss?*

An immense sense of despair was injected into the manager.

With his hands trembling, he reached into his pocket for his phone and dialed for the owner of the hotel. “Boss, something happened here at the hotel! Could you come over?”

Meanwhile, Mo Lan was already outside of Fang Zhan's room. He pressed on the button for the ringer.

Fang Zhan was not taken aback by Mo Lan's sudden visit. He knew Mo Lan's reputation in Yun City and what he was capable of. To locate Fang Zhan was surely a piece of cake to Mo Lan.

"I didn't expect you to show up so soon." Fang Zhan gave Mo Lan a welcoming smile. Since he was determined to keep Han Jingru's death from Mo Lan, he had to put on a fake front.

"What are you doing here in Yun City?" Mo Lan asked.

"Nangong Boling was helping me with my daughter's matter. I came here to check in with him for updates." The flow of Fang Zhan's speech was natural.

"Why didn't Jingru come with you?" Mo Lan followed up with another question.

Fang Zhan's expression remained the same. "He

has something very important to tend to. At the moment, he won't be able to return."

"Can you contact him now?"

"I'm sorry but I can't. Even I have no idea where he's at now. We'll have to wait until his mission is done before we can contact him."

Mo Lan gritted his teeth. He intended to let Han Jingru know about Su Yimo's condition through Fang Zhan, but he would have to wait now.

"Why are you looking for him in such a hurry?" Fang Zhan asked out of curiosity. *Mo Lan and the entire Han family knew that Han Jingru left for an important matter. Besides, Su Yimo knew about the Apocalypse too. Logically speaking, they would know not to interrupt Han Jingru at this moment.*

"Something happened to Su Yimo." Mo Lan's tone was grave.

Fang Zhan knitted his brows.

*How can anything happen to Su Yimo?*

*It's Yun City. No one can harm her!*

“What’s wrong?” Fang Zhan inquired.

“In just one night, she aged tremendously. Nangong Boling got all of the well-known doctors around the world to see her, and the preliminary diagnosis is adult progeria.”

“Adult progeria?” Fang Zhan took a deep breath. He said, “I have also heard of this disease before. At the moment, there’s no cure for it. Even if we notify Han Jingru about it, there’s nothing he can do.”

“Is there really no way we can reach him? If anything happens to Su Yimo, what am I going to tell him? Please, could you help me find a way to inform him of Su Yimo’s condition?” Mo Lan pleaded earnestly.

Mo Lan's words incited guilt in Fang Zhan. He felt morally inclined to let out the news that Han Jingru was dead, so at least they wouldn't be anticipating his return. Because of his selfishness, Fang Zhan had decided not to let anyone know about Han Jingru's death.

Fang Zhan had been looking for his daughter for years. If Nangong Boling knew Han Jingru was dead, he would definitely stop the search for his daughter, which Fang Zhan dreaded.

*Han Jingru, please forgive me for this!*

"I am so sorry. I have no idea," Fang Zhan lied with a sigh.

Mo Lan couldn't believe Fang Zhan. "How can you have no idea how to get in touch with him? You were the one who brought him away. You must know where he is now!"

"I don't have as much power as you think. There are many things over which I have no control. However, I will relay to him your message if I ever come across him." Fang Zhan had no choice

but to make such a tactful promise so that Mo Lan would not continue to pester him.

Seeing that Fang Zhan was already trying his best, Mo Lan decided not to pressure him anymore. “Alright, please remember to relay the message to him. Also, if you ever need help in Yun City, just look for me. I’ll take my leave now.”

Fang Zhan nodded and sent Mo Lan out of his room.

By the time Mo Lan came to the lobby, the owner of the boss was already waiting for him. Standing in one corner, the receptionist lowered her head. There were tear stains on her cheeks. It was apparent that she just got scolded by her superior.

The owner scrambled to Mo Lan right away upon seeing him. He apologized, “Mr. Mo, I am well aware of how my employee has treated you just now. I have personally scolded her for her behavior. Please do voice out your dissatisfactions. We will try our best to make amends.”

Mo Lan was not in a great mood at the moment. He was on tenterhooks about not being able to inform Han Jingru about Su Yimo's situation right away. The little quarrel he had with the receptionist earlier wasn't worth his time whatsoever.

“Get lost.” Mo Lan's voice was filled with rage.

The owner of the hotel shuddered and hurriedly took two steps to his right to let Mo Lan pass.

But after a few steps, Mo Lan stopped as he caught sight of the pitiful receptionist. He figured that if he left in this manner, the receptionist would certainly receive a heavy punishment. Even though Mo Lan was angry, he was not petty enough to let her suffer because of it.

“Let bygones be bygones. Since you have already scolded her, let's just call it a day,” Mo Lan said.

The owner of the hotel was taken aback by Mo Lan's words as he planned to punish both of his employees.



“Mr. Mo, you really want to let them go?” He gaped at Mo Lan.

“Have I not made myself clear enough?” Mo Lan raised his voice.

“Yes, yes. I understand.” The hotel owner nodded in a hurry.

The manager caught news that Mo Lan decided not to pursue the matter and cried gratefully, “Thank you, Mr. Mo! We are forever indebted to you!”

The manager then eyed the receptionist and she too came forth to thank Mo Lan, “Mr. Mo, thank you for forgiving me! It’s my fault for not recognizing you! Thank you for letting me off the hook!”

“Remember this face and treat me better the next time I come here,” Mo Lan replied before striding out of the hotel.

Mo Lan’s words may have been nothing, but he was trying to reassure the owner of the hotel that

he indeed did not hold any grudge against the hotel.

Only after Mo Lan left did the three people feel the knots in their body loosened, especially the hotel owner. He was sure he could no longer run his business in Yun City if he got on the bad books of Mo Lan.

Currently, Mo Lan was only second to Han Jingru, which made him formidable enough to command the respect of many.

“The two of you sure are lucky to be forgiven by Mr. Mo. Be more alert and don’t offend anyone anymore!” The boss reprimanded his staff.

The two of them nodded incessantly. They learned their lessons to never ever belittle anyone again, regardless of their looks.

Meanwhile, Chen Yi got started on his plans.

Even though he was a rich kid who had just entered Yun City’s scene and was barely known by anyone, it was still easy for him to track down

Su Huiqi.

Chen Yi planned to appear before Su Huiqi with his men holding a bouquet of roses each as she was out shopping with her girlfriends. Then, he would ask her out in front of everyone.

Even though those ladies were said to be her friends, they were in truth conniving and superficial creatures who were always trying to compare with one another. They were just hanging out with each other just so they had someone to which they could flaunt their riches. Their conversations always involved one of them showing off the latest fashion items in their collection.

When the girls found themselves being encircled by a group of men with flowers, they were all hoping that it was themselves who were the rightful recipient.

Su Huiqi especially hoped that the entourage of men was for her. Previously, when the Han family sent her a present, she thought it was a betrothal gift. Now, she had the exact same

thought.

“Hey, isn’t that Chen Yi?”

“The Chen family’s company isn’t big, but I heard that their net worth is at least a few hundred million! Also, they seemed to be on good terms with the Tian family. In the future, their company will certainly rise to the top. Do you think Chen Yi fancy any of us here?”

“He must be here for me! I have seen Chen Yi a few times and I caught him stealing glances at me,” one of the women was quick to suggest herself as Chen Yi’s love interest.

Su Huiqi didn’t say anything. Instead, she lowered the collar of her shirt to expose more of her skin. Then, she furtively checked her appearance with a makeup mirror.

Chen Yi approached the girls. When he saw the delusional hope on their faces, there was an intense sense of disdain in him. He was interested in none of them at all. Nevertheless, he was on Tian Shuirou’s orders to chase Su Huiqi.

“Chen Yi, what are you doing?” The woman who thought Chen Yi was coming for her put herself in front of the others.

Chen Yi didn't even take a look at her and went straight to Su Huiqi.

“He is here for Su Huiqi? How can that be? “

“No, it can't be her! He isn't blind, right?”

“Doesn't he know Su Huiqi has been with a lot of men before?”

Everyone's tone was full of scorn as they talked Su Huiqi down. Their spiteful words towards her made it impossible to believe that they were friends.

Su Huiqi was as shocked as the rest of the girls. She did not expect that Chen Yi was actually coming for her despite being hopeful.

“Y-You are here for me?” Su Huiqi was starting to stutter. All this while, she had been waiting for an opportunity to be married to a rich man, which was the reason why she had flirted with so many wealthy men before. However, none of the men she had approached took a liking to her. Thus, she found it unbelievable when Chen Yi approached her.

If it were before, Su Huiqi would not even bat an eye at Chen Yi as his family background was nothing remarkable.

But times were different. The Su family had completely fallen under, and Su Huiqi was just an ordinary girl now. Even Chen Yi was a great catch for her, as beggars couldn't be choosers.

“Is there anyone prettier than you around here?”  
Chen Yi was full of smiles.

The other girls were disgruntled by Chen Yi's words. A woman cared most about their appearances. Hence, they were unable to sit with the fact that Chen Yi relegated their beauty to a lower standard than Su Huiqi's.

“Chen Yi, I think you need glasses. How is anyone of us here not prettier than Su Huiqi?”

“I agree! You better head to the optometrist for a check-up. There’s nothing on her body that is worth talking about!”

“Chen Yi, where’s your taste in women? Her legs are short and her chest is so flat that you can play golf on it!”

All of the women jeered at Su Huiqi.

Chen Yi pulled Su Huiqi into his embrace daringly and responded, “Let me tell you all something. From today onwards, Su Huiqi is my woman. If you guys dare to talk her down, I’ll make sure the lot of you be blacklisted from the social circle of the riches. I might not have a lot of influence at the moment, but I sure have a few friends powerful enough to kick you out!”

There was a drastic change in the expressions of all of the women. All of them were from normal families trying to offer their bodies and looks to wealthy men in exchange for higher living

standards.

“Chen Yi, we are just pulling your leg! Why so serious?”

“Yeah, we are just joking with you. Don’t take us for real.”

In a snap, their demeanors took a 180-degree change and were all purring at Chen Yi now.

Chen Yi suppressed the repulsive feeling he had in him. *Birds of the same feather sure flock together. I’m sure these women are friends because they are all shameless!*

“Are you free tonight? I want to take you out for dinner,” Chen Yi told Su Huiqi.

Su Huiqi nodded in a hurry. After all, how could she reject a rich man falling into her lap?

“Alright then! I will fetch you tonight. After dinner, we’re going to the nightclub.”

“Okay!” Su Huiqi answered without any



hesitation.

“I’ll send these flowers to your house. Alright, I will leave you girls to your shopping then. See you tonight.”

After Chen Yi left, Su Huiqi still felt like what happened was a dream. She didn’t think that she would be so lucky to attract a young man from an affluent family.

“I’ll take my leave now, girls,” Su Huiqi bid farewell to her fake friends and hitched a ride back home. She wanted to look her prettiest for her big night out, and she needed time to prepare.

Meanwhile, Chen Yi got in touch with a few of his close friends. They agreed to meet at a quiet bar.

“What’s up, Chen Yi? Why did you call us over so urgently?”

“Have you found any new chicks? Where are they from and most importantly, what are their sizes?”

“How many girls do you have? Enough for us to have one each?”

It was clear from these men’s questions how rampant were their sex lives.

Nevertheless, Chen Yi only smiled blandly in response to their lewd questions. He had other agendas at hand.

“Guys, I need your help. I am proposing to someone tonight.”

“You are going to propose?”

“What?”

“You serious?”

Everyone’s eyes were jumping out of their sockets when they heard about Chen Yi’s idea to propose. So far, they knew he was a playboy, so they thought they were hallucinating when they heard his words. If not, they figured he must be crazy.

“Is there something wrong with your head? You want to propose to someone?”

“Chen Yi, you are still so young! Why do you want to tie yourself down to a woman?”

“Let me warn you before it’s too late. No matter how excellent a woman is, you will definitely get tired of her after a few nights. So think carefully before you tie the knot with her. Once you are married, there’s no coming back!”

Chen Yi was amused to hear his friends’ response. “I am only going to propose. I didn’t say I will marry the girl.”

Everyone blinked their eyes in confusion. Any normal person would think that a proposal would be followed by marriage, but it seemed like Chen Yi was not going to get married anytime soon.

“Chen Yi, what kind of prank are you pulling? Make yourself clear!”

“Yeah, we are all so confused!”

“Oh right, who’s the girl you are going to propose to?”

“Su Huiqi,” Chen Yi answered.

“Su Huiqi? I have never heard of this woman before.”

“F\*ck! You’re talking about the woman from Su family who has been with a crap ton of men before?”

“Su Huiqi? She acted drunk to allow herself be taken advantage of. If I didn’t think she was dirty, I would have stuck it in her! Are you really going to propose to her?”

Everyone widened their eyes at Chen Yi in utter shock. They had no idea what he was up to, but they knew Su Huiqi was a piece of scrap left over by other men, and Chen Yi was going to make himself a fool by proposing to her.

“Chill, guys. Didn’t I say? I am only going to propose to her, not marry her!” Chen Yi chuckled wryly.

“Then tell us what’s going on! If not, we’re going to unfriend you. We can’t risk ruining the reputation of our squad!”

“Damn right! I can’t believe you even find a woman like Su Huiqi interesting at all. Hurry up and tell us what you are really after.”

“Okay, okay! Don’t get too worked up, peeps. I was planning to tell you guys anyway. Actually, Tian Shuirou was the one who asked me to propose to her.”

“Tian Shuirou? She wants you to propose to Su Huiqi? That doesn’t make any sense! Isn’t she Han Jingru’s sister? If anything, she should hate Su Huiqi to the bones!”

“The entire Yun City knows about the bad blood between Han family and Su family. What is Tian Shuirou planning to do?”

When Han Jingru first got married into the Su family, everyone called him a piece of trash. Su Ruijin was the person who was behind all the bad rap Han Jingru got then.

“Actually, I am not entirely sure what Tian Shuirou was up to. However, she promised me that if I follow her orders accordingly, she would allow the Chen family to join in on their Chengzhong Village renovation project.”

The Chengzhong Village was an insanely profitable project that many companies had eyes on. Nonetheless, as it belonged to the Rumo Real Estate, no one dared to plot against it.

To have such a great opportunity at hand was a great news for any family that ran a business.

“Tian Shuirou’s original plan was only for me to get Su Huiqi. Yet, I believe that there must be something more to it. If not, why does she need me to get close to her? So, I came up with this plan to propose to Su Huiqi so I can get her to trust me more, in case Tian Shuirou needed anything out of her.”

Now, it did not matter whether what Tian Shuirou was up to. Everyone heard that Chen Yi was promised the well sought-after Chengzhong Village Project and envied him a lot. If any of them got that kind of deal, they would even go so far as to sleep with a homeless, let alone pursue Su Huiqi.

The matter at hand concerned the future of the Chen family's company. If the Chen family were given the ticket to work on the project, their net worth would definitely soar through the sky in the near future along with their status in Yun City.

“Chen Yi, you are so damn lucky! How did you chance upon a killer deal like this?”

“Yeah, I might have to address you by Mr. Chen when I see you in the future since you'll be on another level from us by then.”

“Sigh, I'm also quite close to Tian Shuirou. Why did she not offer me this deal?”

The lot of them let out a huge sigh unanimously.

However, Chen Yi had already expected this sort of reaction coming from them. After all, the Chengzhong Village was a lucrative and irresistible project.

“You guys be assured. If I actually get to work on the project, I will not forget about you guys!”

“Alright then. We will do our best tonight to help you get Su Huiqi, but you must remember your promise to us!”

Then, the few of them started to plan on how to touch Su Huiqi’s heart and make her fall for Chen Yi. Each of them was actively contributing ideas as they wanted benefits from Chen Yi after everything.

To those playboys, courting girls was something that came natural to them. Hence, in just dozens of minutes, they came up with a complete plan.

After the meeting, Chen Yi gave Tian Shuirou a phone call. Since Tian Shuirou had something she wanted from Su Huiqi, Chen Yi figured that tonight was the best opportunity to have Su Huiqi



promise him anything—when she was the most emotional and vulnerable.

“Shuirou, I plan to propose to Su Huiqi tonight. What do you want me to do? I think it’s a good window of opportunity for me to get her going your way.”

“Wow Chen Yi, you sure have gone all out! Are you not worried that it will affect your reputation adversely?” Tian Shuirou was genuinely surprised. A proposal was a big deal and it would attract a lot of attention. It would be difficult for Chen Yi to shrug off the promises he made after his mission ended.

“Of course I have to execute your orders impeccably. How can I disappoint you?” Chen Yi broke into laughter.

“Gosh, it seems like the Chengzhong Village Project means more to you than I expected. I assure you that I will not go back on my words. Okay, right now, I need you to get the truth out of her on whether she was the person who spread the rumors surrounding Su Yimo.”

Chen Yi furrowed his brows. Su Yimo and Han Jingru were indeed deeply affected by the rumors going on in Yun City at the moment. *No wonder Tian Shuirou is willing to offer me so much for the truth!*

“Alright, rest assured! I will give you an answer by tonight.”

After hanging up the call, Chen Yi carefully thought about the whole picture. Su Huiqi must know the heavy consequences she would face for slandering Su Yimo. Thus, the chances were, she would be on high alert regarding anything about Su Yimo. Chen Yi figured that a proposal alone might not be enough for him to get the truth out of her.

Chen Yi had the idea that if he wanted to make Su Huiqi let the cat out of the bag, he must present himself as someone who loathed Han Jingru.

Back home, he made a simple voodoo doll and wrote Han Jingru’s name on top of it. He already thought of the story he was going to tell her.

When Su Huiqi followed him to his room that night, he would act accordingly to plan.

“Why are you home so early today? Something is wrong! Did you run out of money again?” Chen Yi’s father grumbled in displeasure as he thought Chen Yi was a good-for-nothing who only knew how to have fun.

Chen Yi’s mother gave Chen Yi a look that implored him not to ask his father for money lest he angered the latter.

“Dad, I won’t ask you for money ever again. I now know how to earn my own cash!” Chen Yi couldn’t stop picturing the money he would earn from the Chengzhong village project.

Chen Yi’s father merely scoffed, “I will be grateful enough if you don’t burn through our family’s fortune! If you can earn your own money, then I have to pray to the gods every night for the rest of my life.”

“Dad, your son got lucky this time! However, I’ll only get my chance to shine after my mission

tonight. Just a heads-up—I'll be bringing home a woman tonight. I need your help to go along with my acting.”

“A woman?” Chen Yi’s mother perked up at the mention of a woman as his son had never treated his relationships seriously. Despite knowing this, she still anticipated the day she would become a grandmother.

“Which girl is dumb enough to fall prey to a playboy like you?” Chen Yi’s father asked.

“It’s Su Huiqi from the fallen Su family. You guys should know about them, right?” Chen Yi responded matter-of-factly.

Chen Yi’s mother’s face contorted when she heard Su Huiqi’s name. Even though Su Huiqi was not someone she mixed with, she had heard a lot about her. Apparently, ever since the Su family went bankrupt, she literally opened her doors to every single rich man around. Chen Yi’s mother was determined that she would never accept her into her household.

“Chen Yi, you do know what kind of woman is Su Huiqi, right? How could you bring her home?” Chen Yi’s mother sounded harsh.

Chen Yi’s father was even more agitated. One of his friends previously spent a few hundred thousand just to sleep with Su Huiqi for a night. If Chen Yi did have attachments to this girl, the Chen family’s reputation would certainly take a massive hit.

“Chen Yi, if you dare to bring her home, I will kick you out of the house right away!” Chen Yi’s father was glaring at his son with his eyes burning in rage.

“Mom, Dad, please calm down. Let me explain myself. Tian Shuirou was the person who tasked me with this. Or else, I wouldn’t have approached Su Huiqi. I am just putting on a show tonight. Tian Shuirou suspects that the rumors surrounding Su Yimo were spread by Su Huiqi. She hopes that I can lure her into confessing the truth.”

The rumors about Su Yimo cheating on Han

Jingru had taken Yun City by storm. Hence, it was only natural that Chen Yi's parents had heard about it too. It didn't surprise them that Tian Shuirou wanted to find out the truth on her brother's behalf.

Still, Su Huiqi was a woman with a scandalous track record with men. Chen Yi's parents were flummoxed at how easily their son had accepted Tian Shuirou's request.

“Do you not know how to reject her? Why did you promise her this one hell of an abominable task?” Chen Yi's father ranted.

“Dad, if you were me, would you reject the opportunity to join in on the Chengzhong Village Project?” Chen Yi chortled out loud.

Both of Chen Yi's parents leaped from their seats.

*The Chengzhong Village Project!*

Chen Yi's father approached his son nervously. He was so agitated that his hands were trembling.

“What did you say?” Chen Yi's father was crammed with disbelief. He couldn't believe the words of his son at all. The Chengzhong Village Project would determine both the status as well as the net worth of the Chen family.

Once the Chen family got itself on the Chengzhong Village Project, they would most certainly earn connections to the Tian family and Rumo Real Estate. In the current Yun City, anyone who could get themselves affiliated with those two powerhouses would rise to the top. It was something that everyone yearned for even in their dreams.

Chen Yi's mother wore the same expression as her husband. She asked in a hurry, “Chen Yi, you aren't joking with us, right? How are you qualified enough to be considered for the Chengzhong Village Project?”

Chen Yi's mother doted on her son a lot. She firmly believed that one day his son would be

successful and be the pride of the Chen family. But even with this mindset, she was unable to accept the fact that his son had secured their family a partnership with the greatest companies in Yun City.

Chen Yi was not surprised that his parents had such a big reaction to his announcement. Any other families who heard such news would respond in the same way too.

“Tian Shuirou made me the promise herself. Of course, it has to be real.”

Chen Yi’s father took a few deep breaths to prevent himself from going into cardiac arrest from the excitement he was in.

“Chen Yi, you just made Mom so proud. The day has finally come!” Chen Yi’s mother exclaimed.

“Mom, I didn’t disappoint you at all, right?”  
Chen Yi laughed as he said so.

Chen Yi’s mother nodded. “Of course, you silly boy! How can I be disappointed? I have always



believed that you will be successful someday!”

“Rest assured. We will follow your instructions for tonight, son.” Chen Yi’s father now held a different attitude towards his son. All of a sudden, he didn’t mind having Su Huiqi in his house given the stupendous reward he would get from it.

To Chen Yi’s father, other than the Chengzhong Village Project itself, the greatest benefit the Chen family would receive was the connections they would form with the other companies involved in the project.

“Alright, I have already made all the preparations. It’s time for me to fetch Su Huiqi. I have to leave now,” Chen Yi spoke.

“Okay, hurry up! Be careful, dear. Don’t let anything go wrong!” Chen Yi’s mother reminded him.

After Chen Yi left, the two old folks sat on the sofa.

Chen Yi's father thought his good-for-nothing son would only know how to drink and have fun for the rest of his life. He did not expect that such a precious opportunity would fall upon Chen Yi. *Ah, this is a one-in-a-million-years chance for the Chen family to climb up the social ladder!*

“Old fella, now you know what our son is capable of. See, I told you he's going to succeed someday!” Chen Yi's mother's face was filled with pride.

“Yes, our son has finally made it. You can finally brag about him now, but keep your hurrahs until later for we have an important mission tonight. Later when Su Huiqi shows up, let's act more naturally. We don't want to ruin it for him.”

“Of course, I know what to do! I'll do so well that you might mistake me as the Best Actress for the year.”

That night, in a certain nightclub, a marriage proposal was about to take place.

Su Huiqi had put on her sexiest attire to please

Chen Yi. At that moment, she didn't know he was going to propose to her that night. An opportunity to date a rich and wealthy young man like Chen Yi was difficult to come by especially for someone of her status, so she didn't want to miss any shots.

Su Huiqi was well aware that with her rotten reputation, it was a pie in the sky for her to be married to someone from an affluent family. Thus, she especially appreciated the chance she had that night.

Alas, all of the women in the nightclub were also caked in makeup and had little clothing on them too. Thus, even though Su Huiqi wore scantily, she didn't stand out from the bevy of women at the club, as her beauty was not exquisite enough to set her apart from the rest.

“You look so pretty tonight.” When Chen Yi saw Su Huiqi in such heavy makeup, his initial reaction was that of disgust, but he quickly feigned infatuation to avoid her suspicion.

Su Huiqi lowered her head bashfully. “Compared

to the other women, I really think I am nothing though.”

“Nah, you are definitely the prettiest flower in the room tonight,” Chen Yi replied.

Upon entering the club, the two were immediately drowned in the loud and harsh music blasted through the speakers. As expected of a nightclub, the place reeked of liquor and the commotion seemed endless. Such ambiance was repugnant to anyone who wasn't looking for a casual hookup. Han Jingru himself didn't like such places. From his perspective, there were only two sorts of people in this kind of scene. One was the prey and the other was the predator. Since he was neither, he never visited any nightclubs for leisure purposes.

The two of them chatted for a long time and finished a few glasses of liquor before it was time for Chen Yi to take action. Chen Yi looked at the time on his watch and made an eye gesture at his friends in the background for them to stand by.

Just at this moment, Su Huiqi raised from her

seat. “Chen Yi, I am going to the restroom.”

“Do you want me to go with you?” Chen Yi’s tone was nothing but gentlemanly.

Su Huiqi smiled softly. “It’s fine. Go and have some fun with your friends.”

Su Huiqi wanted to come off as considerate. She wanted Chen Yi to know she wasn’t a clingy woman who needed attention 24/7, and she definitely wouldn’t get in the way between him and his friends.

On the way to the restroom, Su Huiqi pulled out the makeup set from her handbag. She was going to touch up her makeup. The night was still young and she had to make sure to look her best throughout the night.

As Su Huiqi made her way to the restroom, she bumped into a waitress while fumbling around her handbag.

“Hey, watch where you’re going! Are you blind?” Su Huiqi chided the waitress scornfully.

Since the customer was always right, the waitress hurriedly apologized to Su Huiqi, "I'm so sorry!"

Su Huiqi looked at the red wine stains on her dress. It was barely visible but she thought it was enough to ruin her appearance for the night.

Earlier, she had appeared in front of Chen Yi like an angel, and she wasn't going to let a waitress blotch her look.

"Look at the mess you made! Do you know how expensive is this dress?" Right after speaking her words, Su Huiqi gave the waitress a tight slap across her face.

The waitress felt wronged. It was Su Huiqi herself who was negligent, so how could she blame it on the poor waitress?

"Why not give me your dress? I'll help you clean it up," the waitress replied.

Su Huiqi was even more livid when she heard the waitress' words. "If I hand over my dress to you, then what should I wear for the rest of the night?"

You are just talking back at me, right?”

Su Huiqi then gave the waitress another slap in her face. “Get lost! Don’t waste my time!”



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Wait! I Have Something to Say!



Send a Gift to the Writer!

“Chen Yi, I just saw your fiancée getting into a fight with a waitress. You sure you don’t want to show up to her rescue?” A young man who just got out from the restroom teased Chen Yi.

Chen Yi smiled nonchalantly. “Tsk, why would I bother to help that skank? If it weren’t for my mission, I would be disgusted to be in the same room as her.”

“Sigh.” That person paused for a while before continuing, “You sure are lucky. Not only can you have fun messing around with that b\*tch, but you are rewarded so handsomely for it. I wonder when will such an opportunity come to me.”

Chen Yi patted the other guy on his shoulder. “It’s okay. I won’t forget about you when I become successful.”

“You better keep your promise! If you forget about us, we will cut all ties with you.”

Not before long, Su Huiqi returned to her seat.

Chen Yi got up from his seat and waved to the



DJ.

Suddenly, the music came to a rest. The crowd who was in the middle of their rave looked puzzled before rage permeated their faces. They were starting to yell at the DJ.

In response, the DJ spoke calmly into the mic. “Chillax guys! There’s going to be a romantic proposal at the club! Mr. Chen would pay for everyone tonight!”

Once the DJ finished his announcement, everyone in the club cheered with glee. They were jubilant that someone was going to pay for their booze that night. More importantly, they got to witness a marriage proposal, which was a rare occasion in the club.

Su Huiqi’s heart was racing. *Mr. Chen?*

*Is the DJ referring to Chen Yi?*

*Chen Yi is going to propose to me tonight?*

Su Huiqi was so nervous that her palms were

beginning to sweat. Even though it came as a surprise to which she didn't have any mental preparation for, Chen Yi's proposal was the best thing that could ever happen to her at the moment. From now on, she didn't have to seduce any men anymore.

In succession, a few men approached Su Huiqi with bouquets of roses in their hands. In the meantime, Chen Yi took out a box from his pocket.

Inside the box was a fake diamond ring. Since it was just a show, Chen Yi naturally didn't bother to buy an actual ring for Su Huiqi.

“Su Huiqi, will you marry me?” Chen Yi knelt down earnestly before Su Huiqi. However, his knee wasn't actually touching the ground. Chen Yi just couldn't bring himself down on his knees for such a revolting woman like Su Huiqi.

The girl was utterly dumbstruck. It was all too sudden. She didn't know how to react to such abrupt bliss.

If it were just a prank, Chen Yi wouldn't have proposed to her in front of such a crowd and made such a big scene out of it. Thus, Su Huiqi believed that Chen Yi had the purest intention to marry her.

“What the f\*ck! Isn't that Chen Yi? He's proposing to Su Huiqi?”

“Is he crazy? Does he not know how many men has she slept with before?”

“Oh my, I didn't know he's the type of man who digs wh\*res? My brain can't process any of this.”

Upon noticing the couple involved in the proposal, everyone in the room was talking about them.

After all, the crowd was more or less in the same circle as them. They knew the nasty reputation Su Huiqi carried. They just couldn't believe that a young man like Chen Yi, who hailed from quite a well-to-do and reputable family in Yun City, would take a liking to such a wench. Even though Chen Yi wasn't the most impressive among all

young bachelors, but given his status, he could easily find a better woman than Su Huiqi.

The crowd's response was within Chen Yi's expectation. In fact, these were the reactions he was after for choosing to propose in the club. Chen Yi figured it would make his fake proposal more believable if he proposed before a crowd who was familiar with Su Huiqi. That way, the latter would think that he was not pulling a prank on her.

As true as it could be, Su Huiqi didn't notice that Chen Yi was just acting. By having the proposal in the club, he was basically declaring their relationship to the public.

Despite the fact that the proposal came too abruptly and that the two of them had not properly dated before, Su Huiqi was overwhelmed by the rush of happiness in her head. She completely didn't question why Chen Yi wanted to marry her.

Now, Chen Yi's friends were shouting for Su Huiqi to say yes.

Chen Yi also spoke, “You are not going to let me kneel here the whole night, are you?”

Su Huiqi shook her head and reached out her hand.

Chen Yi slotted the fake ring onto Su Huiqi’s ring finger. Beholding the diamond rock that was as big as a quail’s egg, Su Huiqi could feel tears of joy welling up in her eyes.

At the Tian family villa.

Tian Shuirou lay on her bed. Her eyes were glued to the screen. It was playing a video of what was happening in a nightclub in Yun City. Tian Shuirou sighed at how far Chen Yi was willing to go.

“Sigh, this fella. Does he not know how to leave himself a path to walk out from the mess he’s set up?” Tian Shuirou mumbled to herself.

From her standpoint, she couldn’t understand why Chengzhong Village appealed to him so much that he was willing to pay any price just to

get on it.

In all honesty, Chen Yi also had no idea how to end the show he started. However, as a playboy himself, he was used to doing things just for show. He figured that he only had to make a joke out of the proposal after it ended to shrug things off.

Tian Shuirou gave Mo Lan a call after the video finished playing.

“Mr. Mo, I will soon know who was the person who slandered Yimo. Don’t sleep too early. I might need your help with something.”

“Alright, just call me anytime. I promise I will pick up the call at once.” Even though Mo Lan wasn’t paying much attention to Mojo at the moment, he was already used to sleeping late.

In the nightclub, after the proposal ended, Chen Yi left with Su Huiqi.

“Stay at my house tonight.” Chen Yi gave Su Huiqi an outright order. He didn’t give Su Huiqi a

chance to reject him whatsoever.

However, Su Huiqi was already used to such requests. Ever since the Su family went bankrupt, she had to agree to many of such requests to earn extra cash.

“Alright.” Su Huiqi nodded.

Everything went smoothly as Su Huiqi was intoxicated with bliss. She completely let down her guard against Chen Yi. Upon entering Chen Yi’s room, she could notice the little voodoo doll with Han Jingru’s name on top of it. In an instant, she had the notion that Chen Yi and her were similar—in the sense that both of them hated Han Jingru.

“Oh right, do you know what illness did Su Yimo get? I heard she cheated on Han Jingru. Damn, I can’t believe a man with so much power and influence like him would be cheated on. How I wish Su Yimo had cheated on him with me!” There was a playful hint of remorse on Chen Yi’s face.

Su Huiqi sat next to him and exposed her thighs in a provocative manner. When she heard Chen Yi's words, she asked, "Do you want to know what happened?"

Chen Yi knew the crucial moment was imminent. He sat down next to Su Huiqi and wrapped his arms around her waist. "Of course, I want to know what happened. You know any secrets?"



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Su Huiqi rested her head on Chen Yi's shoulder. Disgust flashed across his face. He couldn't stand having a woman who had slept with countless men before so close to him.

“Actually, Su Ruijin and I came up with everything. We were the ones who let it out that Su Yimo cheated on Han Jingru. However, I have no idea what kind of disease she got.”

Chen Yi's face hardened. He couldn't believe that the promise of a marriage could make Su Huiqi put down all of her defenses and spill everything to him so easily.

“Go and take a shower first,” Chen Yi said.

Usually, Su Huiqi was very mechanical around the man she had to sleep with. Yet, she was shy this time around.

“Mmhmm.” She lightly nodded and walked towards the bathroom.

Once Chen Yi heard the sound of the shower, he got in touch with Tian Shuirou at once.

“Shuirou, I have the answer. She was the one who slandered Su Yimo.”

Tian Shuirou sat up from her bed right away. “Did you record your conversation with her?”

“Of course I did. You think I’m not smart enough to do so?”

“Alright, I’ll come over now.”

Tian Shuirou’s face had a thin veil of ice over as she got to her wardrobe to change out of her pajamas.

Then, she dialed for Mo Lan. “Mr. Mo, everything’s done. We have solid evidence that Su Huiqi and Su Ruijin were the ones who did it.”

Mo Lan replied with his low voice, “I’ll send people to capture Su Ruijin right away. I’ll get to you now.”

Su Ruijin was in the middle of deep slumber when he woke up to the noise of someone

breaking into his house.

Su Wenyi and his wife were also woken up by the commotion. They gasped in horror when they came to their living room. There were a few menacing men standing in the center of the room.

“W-Who are you guys? What are y’all up to?” Su Wenyi yelled with anxiety in his voice.

Just then, Su Ruijin came out of his room. A dreary sense of omen washed over him.

“Su Ruijin, come with us.”

Su Ruijin didn’t want to go with them as he could tell right away that they certainly meant him harm. “How dare you trespass my property? This is preposterous! I will call the cops on you guys!”

The fearsome men swarmed ahead and surrounded Su Ruijin. The head of the pack spoke, “You know what you did. We are here on Mr. Mo’s orders. If you don’t wish to lose a finger or two, you better come with us obediently.”

Blood instantly drained from Su Ruijin's face. *They're sent here by Mo Lan?*

*Did Mo Lan find out that we were the one who spread those rumors about Su Yimo?*

*How can that be?*

Su Ruijin was a careful person. Worrying that his dirty secret would be exposed, he had let one of his colleagues be the source of the rumors about Su Yimo cheating on Han Jingru. Now, his colleague was no longer in Yun City. Thus, there was no way anyone could find out that it was him who fabricated those lies.

“I didn't do anything. On what grounds do you have the right to arrest me?” Su Ruijin was beginning to panic.

The leader scoffed. “Since you don't want to come with us on your free will, then pardon us for going rough on you.”

At a wave of his hand, the men started to attack Su Ruijin. As much as Su Wenyi and his wife did

not want to see their child get beaten up, they didn't dare to interfere as they were Mo Lan's men.

They figured that their son must have done something that infuriated Mo Lan. If not, why would Mo Lan send someone in the middle of the night to take him?

“Ruijin, what did you do? Tell us what's going on!” Su Wenyi called out to his son.

Su Ruijin sprawled on the floor motionless, badly injured. He didn't have the strength to reply to his father.

There was only despair in Su Ruijin when he was dragged out of the house.

“If you guys want to call the police, better think of your status in Yun City first before you act,” the leader of the men advised Su Wenyi before he stormed off with his people.

Su Wenyi was a timid person, to begin with. Now with the man's warning, he was even more

terrified to inform the authorities about the abduction of his son.

“Su Wenyi, are you going to watch them as they take our son away? You still call yourself a man?” Su Wenyi’s wife chastised him furiously. Just seconds ago, she was dead silent, for she was also cowering in fear with Mo Lan’s men around.

Su Wenyi gritted his teeth. “If you have the guts, go and look for Mo Lan for our son! What’s the point of bickering so much? I wonder what that rascal is up to again!”

The expression on Su Wenyi’s wife’s face changed. *Right, what did our son do this time?*

*Did he spread the rumors about Su Yimo?*

Even though Su Wenyi’s wife also despised Han Jingru and Su Yimo down to the bones, she was very sure that the two of them were in a loving relationship, especially now that Su Yimo had just given birth to her daughter. *It doesn’t make sense for Su Yimo to cheat on Han Jingru!*

Earlier on, she already suspected that someone had made up the fake news about Su Yimo's infidelity. Now that she thought of it, it was very possible that her son was the person behind it. Or else, why would Mo Lan take him away?

“Oh no, Wenyi! Our son is done for!” Su Wenyi's wife wailed despondently.

“What do you mean he's done for?” Su Wenyi queried in puzzlement.

“I think Su Ruijin was the person behind the rumors about Su Yimo cheating on Han Jingru.”

Su Wenyi froze in place. He had already warned his son to not offend Han Jingru. With Han Jingru's current status in Yun City, there was no way that their family could afford to anger him. He didn't think that Su Ruijin was foolish enough to make up rumors about Su Yimo to mess with Han Jingru.

*If Mo Lan finds out that Ruijin was indeed behind everything, will he escape his wrath alive?*

At Chen Yi's house.

When Su Huiqi walked out of the bathroom, Chen Yi was nowhere to be seen, which weirded her out.

However, a warm smile soon bloomed on her face. She thought that Chen Yi must have gone to another bathroom to shower as he was too anxious to sleep with her.

Su Huiqi returned to the bathroom. She stared at her figure in the mirror and her lips curled up. *For Chen Yi to be this aggressive in courting me, it must mean that I am somewhat very attractive to him.*

“Even though you are not exactly from the richest families in Yun City, as long as you treat me well, I am willing to marry you.” Su Huiqi was very obsessed with herself.

After Su Huiqi was done admiring her own body, she went back to the bed. She covered only half of her body as she wanted to give Chen Yi a steamy surprise.



Soon enough, there were footsteps approaching the door. Su Huiqi was suddenly on pin and needles. It was as though it was her first time sleeping with a man.

But when the door swung open, chills went down Su Huiqi's spine.

The person standing at the door was not Chen Yi. It was Tian Shuirou.

*What is she doing here?*

“Tian Shuirou, what are you doing here?” Su Huiqi questioned her.

The moment Tian Shuirou got the affirmative answer that Su Huiqi was the one behind Su Yimo's rumors, she was already boiling with rage. Now with the culprit right in front of her, she almost exploded.

She stormed to Su Huiqi and yanked on her hair violently.

Su Huiqi screamed in agony. She wanted to

retaliate, but no matter how hard she struggled, she was no match for Tian Shuirou who was engulfed by fury.



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Tugging on Su Huiqi's hair, Tian Shuirou pulled Su Huiqi's head up and slapped her bluntly across her face over and over again.

Very soon, Su Huiqi's face was swollen red, just as Tian Shuirou's hands were.

Even though there was a sting in both of her hands, Tian Shuirou didn't intend to stop. She was not yet done letting out all of her steam.

Ever since Han Jingru left, Tian Shuirou swore that she would take good care of Su Yimo and Han Xiang. Along with Mo Lan, she wasn't going to let Su Yimo and her daughter be bullied by anyone.

Even though Tian Shuirou couldn't be Han Jingru's lover, she made up her mind to be a good friend to him. After all, he was the first man she had ever loved.

"Please stop!" Su Huiqi had stars circling her head. There was a deafening ring in her ears. Since she couldn't fight back, she started to plead Tian Shuirou to let her off.

However, Tian Shuirou pretended to not hear anything and continued on her flurry of slaps. Chen Yi who was watching the scene outside the room could feel his heart thumping.

Coming from the Tian family, no one dared to harass Tian Shuirou. Thus, Chen Yi never had the opportunity to witness Tian Shuirou in such a frenzy. *Oh god, she sure is terrifying when she blows her top!*

“You f\*cking b\*tch, what right do you have to beg me to stop?” Tian Shuirou barked as she took out the hatred towards Su Huiqi by slapping her.

Even after Tian Shuirou punched the lights out of Su Huiqi, the latter still didn't understand why Tian Shuirou would suddenly appear at Chen Yi's house.

Su Huiqi thought that night was supposed to be the night she and Chen Yi consummate their love. Naturally, she didn't expect Tian Shuirou to show up and beat her up.

“Tian Shuirou, even though you are from the

almighty Tian family, how could you assault me for no reason in a lawful place like Yun City?" Su Huiqi growled.

Tian Shuirou heard Su Huiqi's words and stopped in motion. Her eyes were glowering at the girl who was beaten black and blue.

"For no reason?" Tian Shuirou replied with a question.

At that moment, Chen Yi knew it was time he made his entrance and strode into the room.

Hope flared up in Su Huiqi's eyes when she saw Chen Yi. "Chen Yi, save me! Chase this crazy woman out!"

Chen Yi laughed disdainfully. He assumed the spot next to Tian Shuirou and spoke, "Su Huiqi, you slept with so many men in Yun City that I can't even finish counting them with both of my hands."

Even with her face all swollen and bruised, the change in Su Huiqi's expression was drastic

enough to be noticeable.

*Both of your hands?*

*Oh, right. It's actually more than that.*

Ever since the Su Corporation became broke, Su Huiqi was unemployed. The current financial situation of the Su family was unable to keep up with the lavish spending habits of Su Huiqi. Thus, to get more money, Su Huiqi was willing to do anything.

After she tasted the sweet reward she got from her first customer, Su Huiqi welcomed more men to pay her for sex. She was so desperate for money that she even took the initiative to seduce those men with considerable fortune.

However, Su Huiqi didn't understand the point of her future husband bringing up her past at that moment.

“Chen Yi, what do you mean?” Su Huiqi sounded like she was about to lose her mind.

Chen Yi cracked up. *Does she really not know what I mean? Until now she still thinks I will marry her?*

“Su Huiqi, you have slept with so many men before. Do you really think I will be interested in you? I will be the laughing stock of the whole Yun City if I actually married you!”

Su Huiqi took a deep breath and clenched her teeth. “If you’re not interested in me at all, then why did you propose to me in front of so many people? Was that all just for show?”

“Of course it’s only for show. The point of everything is just to trick you into letting down your guard against me,” Chen Yi replied as he took out his phone.

Su Huiqi couldn’t wrap her head around any of Chen Yi’s words. *Huh? What are you talking about? Trick me into letting down my guard?*

Chen Yi pressed a button on his phone, and out came from the loudspeaker the recorded conversation Su Huiqi had with him earlier.

Only at that moment, Su Huiqi suddenly understood what was going on. She instantly realized why Tian Shuirou was at Chen Yi's house.

*So it's all because of this.*

*Chen Yi just proposed to me to pry the truth out of me!*

Su Huiqi was in total breakdown. She remembered Su Ruijin warning her about the deadly consequences if she told anyone about their secret. Yet, she was so entranced with Chen Yi's sweet-talking that she didn't even realize she was piping out the truth. She thought she was going to become Chen Yi's wife, but now it was all a big fat lie.

“If I didn't put up such a big show, you will never have trusted me so easily. As we are on a tight schedule, I had to be more aggressive with my lies. Since Shuirou has given me her orders, of course I will try to get it done as fast as possible.” Chen Yi smiled devilishly. On a side note, he purposely said so as he wanted to take credit for



whatever he had done.

Even though Tian Shuirou was still young, she understood what Chen Yi was trying to imply. Being born into the Tian family, she was very familiar with the nuances of human behavior.

“You do not have to remind me. Since I have made you a promise, I will definitely fulfill it,” Tian Shuirou murmured to Chen Yi coolly.

Chen Yi noticed the edge in Tian Shuirou’s tone and lowered his head. He thought it wouldn’t be a problem if he indirectly reminded her about the promise, but he had overseen the fact that Tian Shuirou was in a foul mood.

“Shuirou, I don’t mean it. I was just...”

Chen Yi wanted to explain himself, but Tian Shuirou was in no mood to listen to him. She cut him off, “Shut up. You shall take only what I have granted you. I won’t give you anything else other than what I have promised you, so quit blabbering.”

“Yes, of course.” Chen Yi’s forehead was beaded with cold sweat. Only then did he witness the monstrous side of Tian Shuirou.

*Oh my. Tian Shuirou is not just a lovely princess from the Tian family. She’s a rose with thorns!*

Out of the blue, Su Huiqi knelt down before Tian Shuirou. She was very clear of the consequences of her slandering Su Yimo, and she needed to beg for Tian Shuirou’s mercy before the latter imposed her divine punishment on her.

“Tian Shuirou, Su Ruijin was the person behind all this mess! I have nothing to do with it at all! Please just let me go and take Su Ruijin with you. He’s the real mastermind behind everything!” Su Huiqi pleaded with her body shaking.

Tian Shuirou sneered. “I won’t let both you and Su Ruijin off the hook! You guys should have been punished for your sins a long time ago!”

With all Su Ruijin and Su Huiqi had done, it was a miracle that they were still alive. Han Jingru had been exceptionally kind to them, but Tian

Shuirou figured enough was enough. She was not going to hold back her wrath on them this time.



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*You should have been punished for your sins a long time ago!*

Those words reverberated in Su Huiqi's head.

Su Huiqi panicked and groveled at Tian Shuirou's feet to repent her own mistakes.

“Tian Shuirou, I have learned my mistake. I will never do it again. Please give me another chance.”

“Another chance?” Tian Shuirou smirked.

“You've run out of chances. If it were for Han Jingru, he would have killed you already. He gave you countless chances, but you didn't appreciate any of them. Hence, death is the only suitable ending for people like you.”

Chen Yi, who was beside Tian Shuirou, felt chills down his spine. The more he realized the other side of Tian Shuirou, the more he regretted his remarks earlier. But, alas, it was already too late. Words that have been said can no longer be recovered.

Not long after, Mo Lan arrived at Chen Yi's house. When he saw Su Huiqi's swollen face, he didn't have the slightest sympathy. On the contrary, he despised the woman for Su Yimo's defamation. Even the young Han Xiang was affected. These were the things he would never allow to happen.

"Is your hand okay?" Mo Lan asked Tian Shuirou.

Tian Shuirou lifted her hand. She took a glance at it before saying, "It's just a little swollen. No big deal."

"I'm taking her away. Do you wanna come?" Mo Lan asked.

"Definitely," Tian Shuirou replied without hesitation. As she had yet to vent her anger, she wouldn't let Su Huiqi go easily.

Mo Lan nodded, and he signaled Lin Heng with his eyes.

Lin Heng approached Su Huiqi and said

condescendingly, “Get up. You screwed up big time. You should have known about the consequences.”

Shu Huiqi was frightened to the point where she couldn't even move a muscle.

Lin Heng grabbed Su Huiqi by the collar and dragged her out of the room.

Before leaving, Tian Shuirou turned towards Chen Yi and said, “Although I was slightly offended by your previous remark, I still intend to keep my promise.”

As he looked at the figure of Tian Shuirou slowly leaving the room, he let out a long sigh, regretting his actions.

After everyone left, Chen Yi's parents came out. Since even Tian Shuirou and Mo Lan came, everything seems to have gone perfectly to them.

However, they noticed an odd expression on Chen Yi's face.

“What’s wrong, son? Didn’t everything go smoothly? Why the long face?” Chen Yi’s mother asked as she approached him.

Chen Yi forced a smile. If only he held his tongue, everything should have ended brilliantly. But, sadly, it was rash for him to express himself, and it backfired instead.

Chen Yi sighed, “Mom, I did something foolish.”

His father became nervous. If Chen Yi did something out of line and offended Tian Shuirou and Mo Lan, the Chen family might be in jeopardy, not to mention the acquisition of the Chengzhong Village project.

“What did you do!” Chen Yi’s father couldn’t help but ask.

Chen Yi told them about the unnecessary remarks that he made, and his father was confounded.

Everyone had the impression that Tian Shuirou was nothing but a spoiled princess, and the reason she could dictate upon Yun City was only

because of Tian Jingshuo's favor. Never would anyone expect her to be as meticulous.

Furthermore, her criticism towards Chen Yi was for him to comprehend the status gap between them.

Despite being friends, they should not ignore social standings. This was what Tian Shuirou was trying to express.

“For many years, the Tian family didn't have a male descendant. So everyone expected the glory of the Tian family to crumble due to the absence of an heir. However, after this incident, it seems Tian Shuirou is competent enough to carry on the Tian Family legacy.”

“Dad, what should I do now?” Chen Yi sought advice as he was feeling uncertain. The Tian Shuirou he saw today was not the same person he knew back then. He was confused, and he didn't know how to get along with Tian Shuirou anymore.

“From this point onwards, you can no longer treat



her as your friend but as your superior. I think this is the best way for now,” Chen Yi’s father advised.

“I’ll keep that in mind.” Chen Yi nodded.

In a dark and humid basement of a mansion, Su Ruijin lay on the ground, clinging to life after being captured and heavily beaten up.

He had no clue as to what was happening and why Mo Lan suddenly appeared at his house to capture him and brought him here.

Although he was responsible for slandering Su Yimo, his plans did not have any flaws. Even the source had left Yun City. There was no way Mo Lan could have found out.

Su Ruijin couldn’t think of any other reason why this was happening to him.

*Could it be that Su Huiqi exposed me?*

Su Ruijin had thought of this but believed it was quite impossible. Su Huiqi understood the

magnitude of this matter. Furthermore, he also warned her not to give herself away. So he was sure that she would never tell anyone.

At this exact moment, Su Ruijin heard footsteps closing in. He trembled uncontrollably out of fear.

As the footsteps reached the basement, the lights in the basement were switched on and they brightly illuminated the room.

With great effort, Su Ruijin lifted his head and saw Su Huiqi's face covered in bruises. He knew something bad was about to happen.

For the both of them to be captured together, it must be about Su Yimo. There was no other explanation to that!

“Mo Lan, why are you doing this to me?” Su Ruijin had no other choice but to ask.

Before Mo Lan could answer, Tian Shuirou approached Su Ruijin.

Usually, a lady would not be fearsome. However, the killing intent in Tian Shuirou's eyes at that moment sent chills down Su Ruijin's spine.

Su Ruijin was intimidated. "Tian Shuirou, what are you trying to do? Don't you come near me!"

However, Tian Shuirou was unshaken and continued moving towards him.

"There's a wooden bat right there. Be careful not to hurt your hands with it," said Mo Lan, who was right behind her.

Tian Shuirou picked up the wooden bat and swung it directly into Su Ruijin's head.

Although she didn't have immense strength, the impact from her going full force was enough to cause a fatal blow.

After taking a hit in the head, Su Ruijin began writhing in pain on the ground.

Tian Shuirou was not done yet. She delivered another blow to Su Ruijin's knee. The sound of

his bones cracking was distinct, and his agonizing shrieks echoed through the entire basement.

Su Huiqi was shaking in fear. Having witnessed such a brutal scene filled her with remorse.

However, it was already too late for her to have any regrets.

“You! Why are you hitting me?” Su Ruijin yelled at Tian Shuirou.



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