

Chapter 701: Deserving Faceslap

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

That woman could perhaps help Tong Yan take revenge on Xinghe or else Tong Yan wouldn't be so smug. She had come prepared. Alas, no matter which reinforcement Tong Yan brought in, Xinghe's relation to the Shen family couldn't be shaken, and she would help Tong Yan understand why she had the right to be a part of the Shen family!

Ali couldn't wait for the face-slapping to begin. If Tong Yan didn't come to enrage them first, they probably would have left her be. Since she was asking for a good old-fashioned face slap, then they would have no choice but to oblige. Imagining Tong Yan's face as she got face-slapped made Ali laugh aloud.

She even hoped that Tong Yan would act more arrogantly and smugly, because the face slap would only get harder and spicier!

It would be extremely satisfactory watching Tong Yan get face-slapped, it would be like scratching that hard to reach itch.

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Xinghe and Tong Yan both entered the Shen family's living room, nursing their own thoughts.

Noticing Elder Shen sitting on the couch, Tong Yan immediately pushed Xinghe out of the way and tried to suck up to him. "Grandpa, I came to visit you! How's your health recently, where's Grandma, is she home? I've missed both of you so much. Ying Ying also just came over to Hwa Xia on holiday, so I brought her with me."

Tong Yan would never say something like this before. She was always such an unruly child even when she was facing her elders. However, she had changed and now knew how to suck up to others.

Elder Shen glanced at her uninterestedly and greeted Chui Ying with a thin smile. "Ying Ying, it has been so long, I cannot even remember the last time you came to Hwa Xia."

Chui Ying smiled kindly in response. “It has been two long years since I came to Hwa Xia. It is going to be Little Yan’s birthday soon, so I purposely came to celebrate it with her and stopped by to pay you a visit while I’m here.”

“Good, good.” Elder Shen nodded.

Then, his eyes fell on Xinghe and his face broke into a surprised and kind smile. “Xinghe has also returned? Come and quickly sit down. How was your journey? I hope it wasn’t too difficult. How come you didn’t tell me you are returning? I would have sent someone to pick you up.”

“It’s okay, I left on a short notice after all,” Xinghe answered with a smile and her eyes couldn’t help but look kindly at Elder Shen. Previously, she didn’t feel such an obvious bond with him, but now that she knew the truth, she had a new appreciation of her newfound family. After all, this was her grandfather, her family and kin.

Xinghe didn’t have a family from the grandparent’s generation, suddenly she found herself sitting across from one, so she couldn’t help but felt blessed.

Elder Shen could sense the love and respect Xinghe was sending his way and he felt instantly better, he didn’t mind Tong Yan’s sudden arrival anymore.

“Why are you still standing? Maid, bring out the tea and biscuits. Also, start preparing dinner, remember to prepare the dishes that Xinghe likes to eat,” Elder Shen ordered the maid happily.

“Yes, sir.” The maid nodded and went away to prepare.

Elder Shen turned to Xinghe with a gentle and happy smile. “Xinghe, if you have any craving, please tell me, I will have them prepare it for you.”

“Okay.” Xinghe nodded with a smile. Her heart was filled with warmth. She smiled even broader at Elder Shen.

Tong Yan, who saw all of this happening before her eyes, was instantly filled with envy and resentment!

Chapter 702: Softhearted

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Tong Yan sidled up to Elder Shen and opened her mouth to beg.

“Grandpa, we also want to stay for dinner.

“Grandpa, please don’t ignore me.

“Grandpa, I really miss you and I can’t stand to be away from you.”

It was so rare for Tong Yan to use the pity card.

Elder Shen looked at her and sighed. “Then stay if you really want to. Ying Ying, you should stay for dinner as well. By the way, how are your parents, and when did you arrive at Hwa Xia?”

Chui Ying sat down and replied, with a smile, “Grandfather Shen, I arrived yesterday. My parents and grandparents are doing fine, in fact, they asked me to send you their regards. How about Auntie Yu, how is she doing?”

“She’s doing well, we all are. Remember to send my regards to your parents and grandparents as well.”

“That’s good. In fact, we’ve heard about what happened to your family earlier; my grandparents felt saddened when they heard about it. You know Little Yan and I have been friends since we’re young, so I couldn’t help but feel sorry for her. Grandfather Shen, Little Yan is actually also an innocent victim in all of this and she really couldn’t bring herself to stay away from you.” Chui Ying put in good words for Tong Yan. She knew it would be able to sway Elder Shen’s opinion.

After all, Elder Shen was clear-sighted enough to realize he shouldn’t pin the older generation’s mistake on Tong Yan. Furthermore, Tong Yan practically grew under his gaze, so he was very partial towards her. If they managed to get Elder Shen to soften his attitude towards Tong Yan, then Tong Yan could continue to be a Shen.

Chui Ying dared to bring this up because she noticed the way Elder Shen treated Tong Yan. He was still soft-hearted toward the granddaughter that he raised.

As she expected, Elder Shen sighed. “None of us blamed her but there are many things you don’t understand that had happened. Let’s not talk about those sad things anymore. Actually, I’m impressed that you two stayed friends throughout the years.”

“Of course, since I’ve recognized her as my friend, then she will be my friend for life,” Chui Ying said with pride.

Tong Yan took the cue and raised her hand to say, “Grandpa, me too! I’ve recognized you as my grandpa and so you will always be my grandpa! The Shen family will always be my family; I am a Shen as long as I have a breath in me!”

Elder Shen was taken aback as if touched by Tong Yan’s proclamation. Chui Ying noted his response and quickly gave Tong Yan a signal.

Tong Yan understood and went forward to wrap around Elder Shen’s arm and started to weep. “Grandpa, I know I’ve been an unruly child, but I promise I will change from now on! Can you please not toss me out? I don’t want to lose any of you. I want you to be my grandpa forever!”

“Grandfather Shen, why don’t you take back Little Yan, she really has learnt her lesson and she really doesn’t want to part with any of you. Little Yan is your only granddaughter, even though there is no blood relation between both of you, she grew up before your very eyes. I’m sure you wouldn’t want to disown her because of mistake that is not her own, right?” Chui Ying continued.

Elder Shen was visibly touched. Chui Ying was right; Elder Shen did miss Tong Yan. After all, she was his only granddaughter, one who he had lavished all his affection on.

In fact, he didn’t have the heart to disown Shen Ru either.

However, keeping them around would only remind Elder Shen of everything the Lin family did. Therefore, at least for now,

he wouldn't be able to accept Shen Ru and Tong Yan back with open arms.

Chapter 703: Rivalry

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, his resolve was crumbling when they came to beg him like this. After all, decades of family memories couldn't be removed just like that. Elder Shen was fair to the public, but he always had a soft spot when it came to his family.

Shen Ru and Tong Yan were not his blood kin, but he had been with them for decades, so it would be a lie to say he wasn't attached to them in some ways. Furthermore, some time had passed since the incident. Combined with Tong Yan's effort to endear to him, his heart softened even more.

Elder Shen knew deep down he couldn't really cut them off from his life. He was willing to sacrifice his whole life for Tong Yan before when he allowed her to marry Lin Xuan, so it went without saying that he cared for her.

Elder Shen looked at Tong Yan and said, "Little Yan, if you really have learnt your lesson, then Grandpa doesn't mind taking you back, but there is one thing you have to be clear about, I will never forgive the Lin family."

Tong Yan felt joy surge up in her heart and immediately declared, "Grandpa, I have nothing to do with the Lin family! They are a bunch of evil people and they were never a part of Mom's and my life, so I will never admit them as my kin. They deserve everything that they got so don't worry, we will always be by your side, supporting you and not them!"

Tong Yan continued, "Mommy thinks so as well, in our hearts, you and the Shen family are our real family. We have cut all ties with the Lin family and will not pity them one bit. There is only regret that we were fooled by them before. If possible, Mommy and I would rather die than be associated with the Lin family! Grandpa, we only see the Shen family as family and no one else."

Elder Shen was touched by her proclamation. He sighed in relief, knowing they had learned their lesson and made their position clear. The awkwardness in his heart was slowly released.

Elder Shen finally smiled at her and said, “It’s good that you two have seen the right way. To be honest, Grandpa doesn’t have the heart to leave you two out there alone, but certain things cannot revert to their original state no matter how hard we try.”

“No problem!” Tong Yan said with red-rimmed eyes, “Grandpa, I don’t mind how you treat us as long as you see us as family again. Just don’t treat us like strangers, it really hurts our hearts.”

“Grandfather Shen, you see, the Shen family is the most important thing in Little Yan’s heart...” Chui Ying helped.

Elder Shen was slowly swayed by their persuasion and his heart slowly opened to accept Tong Yan again. After all, it had been a twenty-year-long habit for him to pamper and spoil Tong Yan. The moment that first defense was breached, it was easy for Tong Yan to worm her way back to Elder Shen’s heart.

Tong Yan was overjoyed and kept engaging him in conversation to make sure that he didn’t have time for Xinghe. Even though Xinghe was neglected, she didn’t show any annoyance on her face, she just looked at this with a detached eye.

But, Ali was angered on her behalf!

Who was this Tong Yan to isolate Xinghe in front of Elder Shen? Looking at the way Elder Shen slowly warmed back up to Tong Yan, she had the urge to tell him Xinghe was his real granddaughter!

Tong Yan had no right to squeeze Xinghe out of the picture, but since Xinghe showed no response, Ali didn’t dare to do anything on her own. She could only satisfy herself with the knowledge of the truth.

Probably Ali’s dissatisfaction was too obvious that Elder Shen suddenly told Tong Yan, “I have something to discuss with Xinghe, so you keep yourself busy with Ying Ying for now.”

Chapter 704: Reacceptance

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Xinghe, can you follow Grandpa to the study?” Elder Shen requested kindly. Even though Xinghe was only his newly accepted granddaughter, he treated her as his own. Despite his reacceptance of Tong Yan, his attitude towards Xinghe hadn’t changed.

Xinghe nodded and she brought Ali along with her to the study.

Tong Yan watched them leave with an innocent smile on her face, not one trace of resentment was visible. However, the moment they turned the corner, her face changed.

Chui Ying patted her on the back of her palm and consoled, “Little Yan, don’t be impatient, this is a slow battle. Today is already a good start, Grandfather Shen has accepted you again. Remember to keep this going or else all our effort will be wasted.”

Tong Yan took in a deep breath and replied, “Ying Ying, don’t worry, I know what to do. I will act according to your plan because it is definitely working! I’ve come to find Grandpa so many times, but not once did he want to see me. Yet this time, he really did soften his attitude towards me. I will continue to suffer that b*tch and will not let our effort go to waste.”

Chui Ying smiled smugly. “Haven’t I told you my plan will work? Facing a calculative b*tch like this Xia Xinghe, you have to be more patient than she is. The person that remains will be the winner, so from now on, your only homework is to be a good girl in front of Grandfather Shen and leave the rest to me.”

“Ying Ying, you’re the best! Without you, I wouldn’t know what to do...” Tong Yan grabbed Chui Ying’s hands with appreciation. Her heart was filled with conceit because she was right to find Chui Ying to come help her!

Chui Ying would help her chase Xia Xinghe away. The day she managed to kick Xinghe out the door and reclaim everything she owned was getting close and it made glee

bubble up in her heart. She couldn't wait for that day to come. However, she didn't prepare for the fact that Xinghe was Elder Shen's biological granddaughter...

Xinghe followed Elder Shen into the study. He first enquired about her journey at Country R before getting into the search.

Xinghe replied softly, "I've found some clues and I will reveal everything to you after I receive more confirmation."

Elder Shen was beyond happy. "Really? What clues?"

Xinghe shook her head. "I don't want to bring your hope up for nothing, please believe in me for now."

"Of course I will." Elder Shen waved his hand and said, "I have full faith in your ability, but I still have to remind you, your safety is more important than the search. If the thing is too dangerous, don't rush headfirst into it, you must come back to discuss it with us first."

"I will." Xinghe nodded before she raised her eyes to look at him. She couldn't help herself but ask, "Grandfather, do you really plan to reaccept Shen Ru and Tong Yan?"

Elder Shen didn't think Xinghe would be interested in such matters, so he was shocked when she asked such a question.

He looked at her and sighed. "It is impossible to mend bridges like nothing ever happened. However, no matter what, I can't just pretend that they don't exist, decades of relationships couldn't be removed just like that. At least for now, I will still treat them as my family, but beyond that, I don't think I will be able to."

Actually, it was not that he didn't want to, but he couldn't because it would be so unfair to his estranged daughter and he would never forgive what the Lin family did to them.

Chapter 705: I Need Your Cooperation

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His plan was to adopt Shen Ru, and this was his way of balancing both ends. He didn't voice his plan out loud, but Xinghe understood it implicitly. This was the best he could do considering the situation. He didn't have the heart to deny the suffering of either one of his daughters.

Xinghe nodded and said, "Grandfather, actually I'm curious about the identity of the other woman."

"You mean Chui Ying?" Elder Shen frowned with surprise. After all, Xinghe didn't give him the impression that she was a busybody. In fact, he believed she was the complete opposite of one.

However, Elder Shen still answered honestly, "She is from Country R's Chui family. In fact, they are our Shen family's savior. About ten years ago, I went to Country R to do some business and your stepmother went with me. However, she was unlucky enough to get kidnapped and was locked in a freezer when the kidnappers tried to leverage with us. She almost died in there. It was Chui Ying's grandfather who used his influence to save her, if not for them, both of my daughters would have been lost. Therefore, our Shen family owes them a life. Unfortunately, that incident caused irreparable harm to Shen Yu's body, causing her to become infertile."

Xinghe raised her brow with interest. No wonder Chui Ying's words carried such weight in the Shen family.

"Miss Chui is also from Country R?" She was intrigued by this detail.

Elder Shen nodded and said rather tactfully, "Indeed, the Chui family is one of the strongest and biggest family in Country R."

Xinghe understood his meaning immediately. Country R's president also happened to have the Chui surname...

Looks like this Chui Ying didn't appear at Hwa Xia for no reason. However, this might be the opening Xinghe was

looking for as well, her eyes glowed with brilliance and she suddenly told Elder Shen, “Grandfather, I need your cooperation with something.”

Elder Shen was taken aback. “Cooperation? What kind?”

Xinghe looked at him and promised firmly, “I can help you find your daughter, but I will need your full cooperation. Currently, I need you to cooperate with me, but I cannot tell you the details of the plan, so I need both your trust and your cooperation.”

“You can really find my daughter?” Elder Shen asked with hesitation.

“Yes.” Xinghe’s answer was succinct but there was a wealth of confidence behind it. Elder Shen chose to believe her, as if he had no other choice.

“Okay!” He nodded firmly and asked, “What kind of cooperation do you need from me?”

“Cut all ties with Shen Ru and Tong Yan,” Xinghe announced out the blue. Both Elder Shen and Ali widened their eyes in shock. What is Xinghe talking about?

She wanted Elder Shen to cut Shen Ru and Tong Yan from his life? But why and how was that related to the search?

Elder Shen was curious about this as well. He asked, “This is the cooperation you need from me? But how is this related to the search for my daughter?”

“The relationship is deeper than you think but I cannot say anything for now. Don’t worry, I will tell you everything soon. For now, I need your full cooperation, but don’t worry, because this is only temporary, you can accept them back into the family whenever you want in the future,” Xinghe answered softly, her thoughts were completely unreadable.

However, it didn’t seem like it had anything to do with the intention to wrangle Elder Shen’s love away from Tong Yan. It really did sound like it has everything to do with the search, but how and why...

Chapter 706: Her or Tong Yan

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Furthermore, Elder Shen had only just decided to accept Tong Yan, reneging on his words now would appear to be very cruel, wouldn't it?

Elder Shen started to hesitate. Xinghe was quiet; she waited patiently for his answer. She didn't force him because the decision laid with him. No matter his decision, she would honor it.

However, if he chose to side with Tong Yan then she would have to find another way to search for her mother. She wouldn't even tell the Shen family the truth because it was no longer necessary. The Lin family had caused such suffering to her mother, she wouldn't forgive them no matter what.

Tong Yan was part of the Lin family no matter how hard she denied it. Just as a mountain couldn't host two tigers, there could only be one of them remaining. It was either Xinghe or Tong Yan. This might be unfair to the rest of the Shen family that didn't know anything, but for Xinghe, if Elder Shen chose Tong Yan, it would seem like he chose the Lin family over the chance of finding his own daughter and Xinghe's mother.

The atmosphere in the study went stale for quite some time before Elder Shen finally came to a decision. "Even though I still feel related to that pair of mother and daughter, they have dominated my love for several decades; that should be more than enough. My real daughter is still out there, her fate unknown, I cannot let her to continue suffer anymore. Therefore, I promise to cooperate with you." Elder Shen sighed.

Xinghe raised her pair of shiny black eyes. "You sure?"

Elder Shen nodded firmly. "Yes, I am! I will cooperate fully with you, I will cut ties from them both. I've realized how naïve I was. I thought I could keep both, but now I really see that is not possible."

If he did find his daughter, it was obvious that Shen Ru and Tong Yan were going to put her through a hard time. His

daughter had already suffered through decades of agony, he couldn't put her through more family drama. Even if Shen Ru and Tong Yan suddenly turned over a new leaf, his daughter would also feel awkward around them because they belonged to the family that did all those terrible things to her. Therefore, the only way to really treat his daughter well was to cut all ties with Shen Ru and Tong Yan or else it was only a disaster waiting to happen.

After confirming his thoughts, Xinghe's eyes softened multiple degrees. "Okay, thank you for believing in me. I promise to fulfil my end of the bargain as soon as possible."

Xinghe stood up and said, "Grandfather, I will come visit again soon, I will definitely stay for dinner next time." She knew it was only going to make things worse if she stayed.

"Okay, come find me if you need anything." Elder Shen didn't press for her to stay because he had something that needed to be done, and it was to crush Tong Yan's wishful thinking.

Xinghe nodded and led Ali out. When they passed the living room, their eyes met those of Tong Yan and Chui Ying.

Xinghe glanced lightly at them and left without saying any words.

Tong Yan suddenly stood up to gloat. "Xia Xinghe, you're leaving already? Why don't you stay for dinner? Didn't my grandpa ask the help to prepare many delicious dishes for you, how can you disappoint him like that?"

"Why would she stay? To make a fool of herself? Little Yan, you're the main character and she is not qualified enough to play the part of an extra," Chui Ying also added snidely. Both of them thought Xinghe was leaving because she couldn't stand being neglected. After all, with Tong Yan back in Elder Shen's heart, Xinghe, this new stepdaughter, would naturally be kicked out of the way.

The arrogant Xia Xinghe would definitely not stay, that was what they thought.

Tong Yan couldn't suppress the smug smile that threatened to appear on her face. Her eyes that looked at Xinghe were filled

with derision.

Ali, who couldn't stand the way they looked at Xinghe, scoffed with condescension, "It's still too early to tell who the main character is! I advise you two to not be so arrogant or else the incoming face slaps will hurt so bad!"

Chapter 707: Tong Yan Was Face Slapped

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Just exactly who is getting so face-slapped that she doesn’t even have the face to stay anymore?” Tong Yan retorted with arrogance.

Suddenly, Ali felt sorry for the girl. Tong Yan was no match for Xinghe, she knew nothing but to be arrogant. However, that was not going to save her from the disaster coming her way.

Imagining Tong Yan’s incoming face slap made Ali laugh. She really wanted to stay to witness the show.

“Let’s go.” However, Xinghe was not interested in her humiliation and left in a hurry.

Tong Yan purposely added, “Xia Xinghe, hopefully you’ve learned from this lesson and don’t overstay your welcome next time!”

Ali harrumphed coldly before running to catch up to Xinghe, she had lost all interest in dealing with this brainless girl as well. Tong Yan thought they were running away out of shame and she was bursting with happiness.

Right then, Elder Shen walked slowly out of his study. Tong Yan went to grab at his arm and said with a smile, “Grandpa, Xinghe left without even saying goodbye. Look at how rude she is, we wanted her to stay for dinner, but she didn’t even acknowledge us. But don’t worry, Ying Ying and I will accompany you. Grandpa, how about you let me stay overnight? I haven’t spent a night at home for a very long time.”

Tong Yan had already moved on to calling the Shen family her home.

However, Elder Shen shrugged her off and said, “I don’t need your company and don’t come here again. I was your grandfather in the past but that will only be in the past.”

Tong Yan was shocked. Even Chui Ying was surprised.

“Grandpa, what are you talking about...” Tong Yan asked with disbelief. Wasn’t everything going just fine, and he had already agreed to reaccept them, so what was happening now?

Elder Shen continued in a firm voice, “I said, don’t come here anymore in the future because I am no longer your grandfather. From this moment on, you and your mother have nothing to do with the Shen family anymore, so stop thinking about coming back!”

“Why?” Tong Yan started to scream. “Grandpa, why are you doing this to me? I demand to know why!”

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“What to do, I can’t stop laughing from envisioning the slaps landing on that Tong Yan’s face right now.” Ali started guffawing the moment she got in the car. The only regret was she couldn’t be there in person.

“Xinghe, why didn’t you tell Elder Shen the truth? That way, we would have been able to face slap that Tong Yan ourselves, and that would have made sure she didn’t have any chance of returning to the Shen family,” Ali suddenly asked.

Xinghe answered softly, “Because I know the Shen family won’t be able to distance themselves from Tong Yan and Shen Ru so easily.”

“What do you mean by that?” Ali was confused.

Xinghe looked at her and said, “I need the Shen family to see Tong Yan and Shen Ru’s ugly sides for themselves.”

“Huh?”

“They will find out that it is because of me that they were abandoned by the Shen family. Hatred will blind people’s hearts into making dumb decision and that is what I need from that mother and daughter pair.”

Ali got her plan roughly. “You mean, you want them to take revenge against you so that Elder Shen can see for himself their real personality?”

“That’s right. The Shen family cannot reserve a space for Shen Ru; Grandfather’s daughters can only be my aunt and

mother!” A flash of viciousness appeared in the depths of Xinghe’s eyes.

Ali was taken aback. She said with disbelief, “I thought this was really part of the search for you mother. I had no idea you’re really prepping the place for her return.”

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Chapter sponsored by people’s hard-work on Discord.

Chapter 708: I'm Creating an Opportunity for Myself

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“But Xinghe, I've always thought you're above these kinds of trivialities, I'm surprised you would fight for your territory with such vehemence!”

Xinghe questioned, “Do you think I shouldn't have done it?”

“No, don't get me wrong! I love it, you should definitely fight for things that belong to you! Xinghe, I love this side of you and I thought you would just ignore that Tong Yan. Who knew you already have her in your crosshairs? I'm impressed! You've even used the search for your mother as a leverage to pull off your plan; it's rather sinister, but I love it!”

“To be fair, I didn't technically lie to Grandfather,” Xinghe clarified. Ali was baffled.

“My demand for Grandfather to cut ties with Tong Yan and Shen Ru does relate to the search for my mother. This is a gamble to create an opportunity for myself, but it will depend on their reaction to see how this thing will unfold,” Xinghe explained calmly but it didn't help clear Ali's confusion much. However, she did get the gist of the plan.

Xinghe purposely had Elder Shen disown Shen Ru and Tong Yan to have them target Xinghe with their anger. According to Xinghe, this was a plan that killed two birds with one stone. It would not only allow Elder Shen to see Shen Ru and Tong Yan's ugly side but also create the opportunity for Xinghe to advance the search for her mother.

But how? Ali couldn't come up with an answer no matter how hard she racked her brain. She eventually resigned to let Xinghe handle all planning. She must have her reasons for making such a move. Ali's role as her friend was only to support her with all her might!

Xinghe's plan was soon put into motion. The moment they arrived at Hills Residence, Tong Yan's call came.

Tong Yan's screeching voice came from the other end as Xinghe picked up the phone.

“Xia Xinghe, you b*tch! What did you tell grandpa to make him treat us like this? Why did you frame me? What is your motive for doing this to me?”

Tong Yan’s voice was so loud on the phone that even Ali could hear her. Facing this maniac, Xinghe was completely unfazed; she merely moved the phone further away from her ear. On the other end of the line, Tong Yan was still venting and yelling her heart out.

Xinghe let her bark for a little while longer before saying coldly, “And I thought you would still have some brain in you, but it looks like you’re as brainless as they come.”

Tong Yan was startled by the sudden insult. “What did you say?”

“What’s my intention? That’s easy, because I hate you, so let me ask you, why did you think I did what I did?” Xinghe said with a smirk before she ended the call.

Tong Yan felt the veins in her forehead popping from sheer anger.

“Xia Xinghe, how dare you, you b*tch?” Alas, Xinghe had already hung up and she was only yelling into the abyss. The enraged Tong Yan threw the phone at the wall and climbed into Chui Ying’s arms to cry her heart out.

“Ying Ying, what should I do? That Xia Xinghe hates me, so she purposely made Grandpa treat us like this. I’ve wasted so much energy trying to get Grandpa to accept us again, but she has ruined everything! Ying Ying, that b*tch has ruined everything again, I’m left with nothing, what can I do...”

Chui Ying was angry on Tong Yan’s behalf.

“How can that Xia Xinghe do something like this? She is so venomous, worse than the world’s most poisonous viper! Who does she think she is when she is not even one tenth of your toenail? She has truly opened my eyes because I didn’t know such a vicious snake actually existed in the world before!”

Chapter 709: Fiance

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“That’s right, she is too evil, she is just an outsider, so who gave her right to not be satisfied with me? This is between the Shen family and me, so what does she have to do with it? She is just a hateful b*tch, simply because Auntie took her as her stepdaughter, she assumed she can lay claim to everything in the Shen family!” Tong Yan complained with anger and sadness.

Chui Ying, a self-proclaimed good person, couldn’t suffer such shameless person. Tong Yan was her best friend, so of course, she had to step in.

“Little Yan, don’t worry, I will help you take revenge on her. I will help you reclaim everything and make sure she loses everything!” Chui Ying promised with confidence and Tong Yan stopped crying.

“Ying Ying, thank you, you’re really the best!”

Chui Ying said rather smugly, “Of course, furthermore, only I can help you, so if I don’t come to your rescue, who will?”

“Ying Ying, you’re the best, the greatest in the world!” Tong Yan started sucking up to her ‘friend’ again. Earlier when they were friends, they were on the same level, but now that Tong Yan had slipped on the social ladder, Chui Ying enjoyed lavishing charity on her once friend. Tong Yan, of course, knew about this as well, she played into Chui Ying’s ego simply to get her aid. In fact, Tong Yan was internally pleased because she still had her ‘friend’ wrapped around her finger.

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After hanging up on Tong Yan, Xinghe started researching information on Chui Ying. Chui Ying came from Country R and probably was related to Country R’s president. Furthermore, she was related to Tong Yan, so Xinghe wanted to know whether she could make use of the woman as an opening to hit at the He Lan family.

After all, the reason the He Lan family could do so many things in Country R was because they were deeply involved in Country R's politics, and in that case, they were probably related to their president. Even if there was no such relationship, Xinghe intended to use Chui Ying to get close to the most powerful person in Country R.

More allies meant a better chance at dealing with the He Lan family. In conclusion, Xinghe would not give up on any opportunity, if anything, she would help herself create an opportunity. That was why she purposely angered Tong Yan to see whether Chui Ying would come to the girl's aid. If she got herself involved, then Xinghe would have a better chance at getting to her.

Xinghe had no idea how right she was. When she investigated Chui Ying, she found out so much valuable information.

Chui Ying was not only related to Country R's president; the president was her uncle. Other than that, in Country R's citizen registry database, it was clearly listed that Chui Ying was an engaged woman and her fiancé... was He Lan Qi!

When Xinghe saw this, even she was startled. Then she started to laugh at the absurdity of the situation. It was as if the plot devices were falling into place, Chui Ying was so conveniently He Lan Qi's fiancé. It was hard to believe such a coincidence existed.

She only wanted to get to know more about Country R through Chui Ying, but she ended up with more than she bargained for. If she missed this opportunity, she probably would have hated herself, thankfully, her instincts had always been correct. And she always believed that there was no lack of opportunities in the world, only those that let opportunity slip through their fingers.

This opportunity was hers, and in that moment, Xinghe's confidence to take down the He Lan family increased manifold!

Chapter 710: Five Seconds...

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

If she couldn't even make use of such a good opportunity, then she didn't deserve to go beyond that. Therefore, it was time to launch an offensive. With a plan in place, Xinghe picked up her phone to call Mubai.

She couldn't wait to reveal all of this to him and discuss the details of the plan. Earlier, Xinghe had to take on the world on her own, she didn't want to, nor could she, rely on anyone, but things were different now, she at least had Mubai to aid her. He was someone who knew her well and could cooperate with her the best.

The call was picked up after two rings. Mubai's joyous voice came from the other end. "This is such a coincidence because I was just about to call you."

For some reason, Xinghe felt merry hearing that, perhaps great minds do think alike...

"What are you doing at the moment?" Xinghe queried with a smile.

"Nothing serious, going to meet someone very important," Mubai replied with a hint of a smile in his voice. "What about you, what are you doing?"

"Nothing important too, but I just came up with some valuable information. Who is this important person you're meeting, am I disturbing you? If you're too busy, I can call back later."

"It will be rather busy, but I can always make time for you, so tell me whatever you wish to, my time is yours," Mubai said easily.

Xinghe didn't want to take up his time, "We can talk about this later, go finish your work first."

She knew he had more responsibility than just pandering to her, so she wouldn't demand that he focus his time on her fully. She wasn't a possessive lover. For her, a relationship was a give-and-take, only by respecting each other's privacy and responsibility could the relationship be balanced and have the

space to grow. This was how Mubai treated Xinghe as well, he would never intervene in her business unless she asked for it or when the situation desperately called for it.

Mubai chuckled. “But the person I’m meeting is related to you. Are you home? Why don’t you open your window, there might be a surprise?”

Xinghe was startled and took anticipatory yet cautious steps towards the window. She pulled open the curtain and saw Mubai standing down there on the front lawn. Their eyes met and Mubai’s face split into a broad smile as he waved at her.

Xinghe asked with surprise, “Why are you here?”

“Didn’t I tell you I was meeting someone important? Give me five seconds...” Mubai said as he rushed into the mansion. Xinghe suddenly felt a rush of adrenaline surging through her blood. She went to open the door when it was pushed open from the outside. Mubai’s impressive physical body framed the door and his soulful eyes stared into hers, however, there was a whiff of danger in the way he stared at her as well, like a predator looking on to his prey.

Xinghe’s brain cried with alarm when he leaned in and pulled her into a deep hug!

His hands massaged the back of her neck to prevent her from moving away, and the next moment, she could feel him breathing directly into her mouth. She felt saturated by his manly presence.

Mubai was kissing her deeply. She was shocked by the sudden kiss and grabbed at his clothes out of shock but she slowly relaxed. However, her heart was racing, and her brain was fogging up like a car window during cold weather...

Mubai kissed her without reservation, and Xinghe had lost her ability to think. She was like a willing putty in his arms.

Chapter 711: Gobble Her Up

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Later, she even linked her hands around the back of his neck, her way of responding back to him. Mubai's kiss got even deeper after she reciprocated...

This was probably what it felt like when they said the world was spinning. Besieged by her man, Xinghe felt her mind giving in to him. After what seemed like forever, the man finally parted unwillingly and put her down. Xinghe was still catching her breath.

They looked at each other and there was a deep communication of love and desire between them. In fact, Mubai's eyes were so scary, it felt like he was going to gobble her up.

However, he suppressed it!

It was still not the time, he hadn't officially proposed to her yet, so he was going to wait. However, he couldn't help biting her earlobe and whispered wickedly, "That's just a taste of the fun we're going to have on our wedding night."

That made Xinghe shiver and she pushed him lightly away in a flustered manner. She didn't dare to meet his eyes when she said, "Why did you come so suddenly and not inform me first?"

Mubai saw the blush on her face and knew she was being shy. He grabbed her proprietarily and said with a smile, "I wanted to make it a surprise. Are you happy to see me?"

Xinghe looked at him but didn't answer, the romantic words just couldn't tumble out of her mouth as easy as Mubai. Normally, she could still say something through the phone, but she couldn't bring herself to do it face to face.

Mubai didn't force her and continued in a low growl, "I'm happy because this feels like a reunion after years of being apart."

He couldn't wait to come find her when he knew she had landed. They were only away from each other for a week, but

to him, it felt like seven years instead of seven days. Actually, Xinghe missed him as well...

“It’s just right that you came, I want to discuss something with you,” Xinghe said officially. “I stumbled upon some secrets.”

“What is it?” Mubai also turned serious and prepared to listen.

Xinghe stared at him and said, “Tong Yan has a good friend by the name of Chui Ying, she is Country R’s president’s niece. The Chui family once saved Madam President’s life, so they owe them big time. Now Tong Yan has brought Chui Ying to come help her to return to the Shen family, but their plan has been ruined by me...”

“They deserved it. Don’t worry, no matter how powerful that woman’s background is, I will protect you.” Mubai thought she was afraid of the repercussion.

Xinghe couldn’t help but laugh. “You thought I was worried? That’s not what I want to talk to you about, I meant to tell you, Chui Ying is He Lan Qi’s fiancé.”

Mubai was taken aback. “How did you find out?”

“I hacked into Country R’s national registry database,” Xinghe said easily, but it was shocking to Mubai. It was not easy for anyone to hack into a country’s database, so how come it sounded like a walk in the park for Xinghe?

This was the proof of her capability, the one thing that put her above every other force.

“But this news is not known to the public.” Mubai frowned with curiosity.

Xinghe nodded. “Indeed, this is treated as a family secret, so much so that I suspect only a select few know about their engagement.”

“There must be some hidden trades between the He Lan family and Chui family,” Mubai suggested.

“I also didn’t expect that they would be so powerful, so it will be extra difficult to deal with them.”

Chapter 712: I Must Make Use of Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Even if we expose them, they will have a way to clear their name,” Xinghe observed.

Mubai smiled knowingly and scoffed. “Not only that, I believe the Chui family is controlled by the He Lan family as well.”

“Why would you say that?” Xinghe queried.

Mubai explained, “The current president for Country R has only been in his post for two years, but theoretically speaking, he shouldn’t even have been there. Country R has two major parties, conservatives versus democrats. The conservative party has been slowly declining since the majority of the citizens leaned towards the democratic ideals, but during the preliminaries two years ago, the conservatives suddenly had a resurgence due to the support from all the major corporations. Even the media was giving them massive and positive coverage. They also had a secret donor that helped the Chui family seize the presidency. Now that you’ve laid everything out, there is a reason behind the president’s win and that secret donor is possibly the He Lan family.”

Xinghe understood everything immediately. “The He Lan family is pulling the strings behind the scene and even the president is actually their puppet?”

“There is such a possibility.”

Xinghe’s gaze sharpened. “Looks like we have a lot more enemies to deal with this time.”

They couldn’t leave the Chui family be or else they would have problem when they came up against the He Lan family. However, the Chui family was also going to be the He Lan family’s fatal flaw.

Xinghe smirked. “This Chui Ying has to consider herself unlucky because I have to make use of her.”

Mubai saw through her plan. He smirked in kind. “She deserves it for sticking her hands into Tong Yan’s business. All’s fair in love and war.”

Xinghe didn't reveal her plan in detail but Mubai seemed to have understood everything. He did know her very well.

He was right, if Chui Ying didn't openly direct her ire at Xinghe, Xinghe probably would have left her be, but she was ultimately just a stepping stone for Xinghe to take down the He Lan family.

Of course, to what degree she was going to make use of Chui Ying depended fully on Chui Ying. If she chose to come after Xinghe with malicious intent, Xinghe wouldn't mind responding in kind. After all, Xinghe was no saint, she would spare no prisoners!

"Have you figured out the plan?" Mubai asked.

Xinghe shook her head. "Not yet, I have to wait for their next course of action first. Tong Yan probably will not disappoint me, hopefully this Chui Ying doesn't as well."

She prayed that they came at her hard or else she would be deeply disappointed. Mubai had long since noticed this unique quirk about Xinghe, she was never afraid of her enemies' retribution, if anything, she savored them.

He smiled helplessly and asked, "Have you told Elder Shen the truth?"

"No, it's not yet time."

"Okay, I believe in your judgement." Mubai then pulled her in for another hug. "Do you need my help?"

Xinghe softened her tone in reply. "Thank you but it's not necessary, these are small issues. I can handle them myself, you can focus on your own business. If I need your help, I will come to you."

"Okay." Mubai didn't challenge her but chose to respect her decision. "Then I will come back later."

"See you then." Xinghe nodded. Even though she was sad that he was leaving, she understood he had his own schedule to follow.

To her surprise, Mubai suddenly nibbled on her ear lobe with some dissatisfaction.

Chapter 713: Kiss Him Actively

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You care about me that little?” He complained like a child, “Didn’t you even want to ask me to stay?”

Xinghe’s body shivered once more as he bit on her earlobe again. She glared at him and warned, “Don’t bite my ear again.”

If this became his habit, it would be very troublesome for her.

“Okay.” Mubai raised his hands in mock surrender before leaning in for a kiss. “I’ll stop that but do this instead, is that okay?”

Xinghe was speechless.

“You really don’t want me to stay?” Mubai grumbled with dissatisfaction. He knew he had to go but he still demanded to hear her say that she wanted him to stay a little while longer. This was how lovers should act, at least to him anyway.

Xinghe saw through his ploy and said with good humor, “If you want to stay, then you can stay. What difference does it make if I say those words or not?”

“It matters very much to me.” Mubai stared deeply into her eyes. “I wish to hear you ask me to stay because you don’t want to part with me.”

Xinghe didn’t say anything. She studied his features for one second or two before suddenly leaning in to kiss him on his lips. Mubai widened his eyes in shock, he didn’t expect... her to kiss him voluntarily!

Mubai’s heart was riding a rollercoaster into the heavens. He was on cloud nine. He responded immediately and grabbed her closely. His passivity turned into activity and he started to kiss her with crazy abandon!

Surprised by his vehemence and excitement, Xinghe’s first instinct was to run...

However, Mubai gave her no space to retreat. He kissed her for a long time. Not until both of their lips were numb was he

willing to let her go. Xinghe felt that her brain was lacking oxygen and she might be entering a paralysis. After she was let go of, she started gasping greedily for air...

Mubai seemed to be doing much better. He caressed the small of her back and whispered in a sexy growl, "I really have to go but come get me if you need anything. Also, remember to take care of your health."

"You too," Xinghe whispered in return.

Mubai smiled with satisfaction. He added with heavy unwillingness, "How about I stay for another half an hour, some alone time for the two of us."

Xinghe nodded with a smile, she was feeling better. Then they spent the half an hour quietly in each other's arms!

Even though they didn't really do anything or say anything, the feeling of being in each other's embrace was wonderful. Mubai didn't think he would ever fall so deeply in love with a woman that his world would light up whenever he was in her company. He thought that was a happiness that he was not destined to have, but he really did have it in his arms then....

Mubai felt greatly satisfied, and that affirmed his conviction in protecting their relationship and it was the same for Xinghe.

Finally, Mubai left. Even though he was not physically by her side, she didn't feel alone. She felt protected and safe because she knew no matter what happened, Mubai would be in her corner, supporting her.

She cherished this kind of trust. She really felt her life was almost complete, only almost because it was still missing her mother. So now, she would fight with her entire strength to complete her life.

...

After Elder Shen had made his intention clear, Shen Ru's and Tong Yan's hatred at Xinghe was at its maximum limit. They already hated her before, but now, they wanted her dead!

For the sake of revenging against Xinghe, they were prepared to give up everything and anything.

Chapter 714: Hong Men Banquet

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Their goal had shifted from returning to the Shen family to taking revenge on Xinghe. However, no one would come to their aid. The Shen family had cut all ties to them and the Tong family would not go against the Xi family for them.

Shen Ru and Tong Yan's position was extremely awkward. Even though Tong Yan was still the Tong family's heiress, that was only in name, they didn't really need her. Therefore, they could only rely on Chui Ying.

Chui Ying came from an impressive family and the Shen family owed them a favor, so she was the best candidate.

Chui Ying didn't mind helping them especially after Shen Ru presented her with many valuable gifts.

"But if I help you take revenge against Xia Xinghe, the Shen family will probably have issues with it and will not take both of you back anymore," Chui Ying voiced her concern.

Shen Ru said coldly, "It's their fault for abandoning us first, so why should we be worried about them? Do the worst you can, we no longer care about the Shen family."

Tong Yan nodded with a condescending smile. "That's right, what is so good about the Shen family? They asked for this when they treated us so badly. In fact, it would be perfect if you can crush the Shen family when you take down Xia Xinghe!"

Shen Ru gritted her teeth with malice. "That's right, ruin them as well! This is their own fault for turning their backs on us; they have forced our hand, so they only have themselves to blame!"

Chui Ying noted their attitude and smiled satisfactorily. "No problem, then I will help you take revenge on them all. Just wait and see, I will make that woman Xia Xinghe lose all her face and everything she's got!"

"Ying Ying, thank you very much. No matter what you need from us in the future, we will not hesitate to help you," Shen

Ru grabbed her hand and promised kindly.

Chui Ying couldn't suppress the smug smile on her face.

“Auntie Ru, you're being too kind. This is what I should do, no matter your needs, I will not hesitate to help.”

“It is the same for us! If you need us in the future, don't hesitate to say so!” Shen Ru replied firmly, cementing their relationship as allies. She was glad to find an ally in the Chui family, after all, other than them, she and Tong Yan had no other people to rely on in the world.

Thankfully, Chui Ying didn't seem to look down on them, she even offered to help them. This made Shen Ru and Tong Yan very happy because both of them thought they had found themselves an easy to control pawn.

Little did they know, when they weren't looking, Chui Ying revealed a strange and calculative smile as she studied the pair of mother and daughter.

...

To help Tong Yan and Shen Ru, Chui Ying decided to throw Tong Yan a massive birthday bash. Shen Ru even personally went to invite the Shen family.

They initially wanted to reject the invitation, but Shen Ru said that they really wanted them to attend the party, they just wanted to thank them for their years of care and love. The party was going to be their parting ceremony, she promised they would not bother them anymore after this. If they didn't accept the invitation, it would haunt the mother and daughter forever.

However, the crucial reason was Xinghe also suggested that Elder Shen accept the invitation. Of course, this meant that Xinghe had received the invitation as well.

It was Tong Yan's birthday, but she was part of the guest list? It was obvious that this was a Hong Men Banquet 1 .

However, this was exactly what Xinghe was waiting for, for them to strike!

Chapter 715: Your Knight

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Xinghe, how do you think they will plot against you at the party?” Ali asked worriedly.

Xinghe was not worried, in fact she was excited. “At least they won’t kill me in open daylight.”

“Will they come up with a trap to frame you?”

“Most likely.”

“Then, I will be by your side at all times; I will not let anything happen to you!” Ali promised.

Xinghe smiled. “Don’t worry, nothing will happen to me. I still have the power of agency; their tricks will be useless against me.”

Ali also laughed. “That’s right, I forgot you are Elder Shen’s biological granddaughter, so no matter what they do to you, it’ll be useless. Plus, even Madam President is on your side.”

Tong Yan would never expect something as ridiculous as this, so this party would be an interesting show. Ali realized, ever since she followed Xinghe, she also gained some sadistic tendencies, she loved watching her enemies being face-slapped. The harsher the slap the better she felt. Therefore, even before the party, Ali already couldn’t wait for the face-slapping to begin.

...

Soon, Tong Yan’s birthday party arrived. Xinghe planned to attend the party with her best get-up. Even though she liked to keep a low profile normally, there was a time and place for everything. She couldn’t come in a normal garb or she would lose in terms of presence!

For the purpose of this party, Xinghe had a ruby red gown specially tailored. The dress shimmered like gems on her body. Even Ali, a woman, had a hard time taking her eyes off Xinghe when she put the dress on.

“Xinghe, how can you be so beautiful? You are so gorgeous. In fact, if I were a man, I would be heads over heels for you!” Ali gasped.

“Thank you. Is everything ready?” Xinghe asked softly.

Ali nodded. “Yes, everything’s ready, we can leave now!”

“Okay, let’s go.” Xinghe was taking her first step when the door of the living room was pushed open from the outside. Mubai strode in confidently. Xinghe and Ali were startled when they saw him!

They didn’t expect him to appear so suddenly and in such a formal and graceful outfit. Mubai had on an expensive, hand-sewn suit, and his hair was even styled. He looked like a royal prince. From the top of his head to the tip of his toe, there was not an inch of him that was not eye grabbing. Combined with his blessed good looks and impressive physical body, it felt like they were graced by the presence of a god.

Ali’s jaw was completely open and even Xinghe was taken aback.

However, she quickly recovered. She breathed out in some degree of shock, “Why are you here?”

Mubai walked towards her and said gallantly, “How can I not be here if I’m your knight?”

“My knight?”

Mubai nodded with a delicious smile. “That’s right. A lady like yourself needs her knight to accompany her to the parties, and I am always at your service.”

Xinghe understood what he meant. He was there to support her. Indeed, it was weird for a woman to attend a party like this alone, she would need a date.

Chapter 716: Meant for Each Other

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe wasn't cognizant of such details, so she was surprised Mubai would be so thoughtful. This was only Tong Yan's birthday party, but he cleared out his schedule to accompany her; this gesture touched her heart.

"You look beautiful but you're still missing one thing." Mubai suddenly took out and pulled open a jewelry case. Sitting inside was a pair of ruby earrings. Xinghe was again taken aback when she saw the earrings.

Ali beside her exclaimed with joy, "These are gorgeous! Xinghe, they would look great on you!"

Xinghe's outfit was indeed missing an accessory. She looked at Mubai with surprise and asked, "How did you know I would be missing this?"

Mubai grinned wickedly. "Because I know you too well. So, I've prepared everything that you might have forgotten."

A date and jewelry were what he meant. There were emotions swirling in Xinghe's eyes. There was another emotional mess in the room, and it was Ali. Like a proud mother, she looked at them and she was touched by how perfect they looked standing beside each other. There would never be a couple more compatible than they would. They were equal in terms of looks, brains, and talent. They complimented each other perfectly.

Ali felt lucky that she was a friend of the both of them.

Mubai personally helped Xinghe put on the pair of earrings. She looked even more mesmerizing with them on. Even though he had seen her in pretty outfits, Mubai still had his breath taken away when he studied her.

His scorching gaze scanned the frame of her body and grumbled, "Xinghe, you are indeed gorgeous. But, do you have to attend the party like this?"

For some reasons, Ali smelled jealousy in the air.

It probably came from Mubai who was envious that others would have the chance to witness Xinghe's beauty. He would prefer if her beauty were his alone.

Xinghe nodded. "I have to, or else how are we going to light up a certain someone's hatred to the maximum?"

Mubai smiled. "Then I will have to be by your side to protect you. Remember to not leave my side."

"Okay."

"Let's go." Mubai offered her his arm. Tonight, he would be her knight, the one who parted the way for her. He was there to compliment her glow, she would be the only main character that night!

He was willing to be her background as long as she was willing to grace him with her beauty. Xinghe took Mubai's proffered arm and they headed towards the party.

That night, Tong Yan was in her best dress as well. Like Xinghe, she didn't want to lose; she wanted to smother Xinghe with her presence. However, to her consternation, Xinghe came in a better dress than she did. She even had the handsome Xi Mubai beside her to enhance her beauty.

Their arrival seemed to have silenced the ballroom. They attracted everyone's attention. No matter male or female, their gaze was glued to them. Actually, most of them there were used to seeing handsome guys and beautiful girls and were inured to physical attraction, but they were still impressed by Xinghe and Mubai.

Chapter 717: Go Thank Your Grandfather

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

They not only set themselves apart from the crowd with their looks, even the aura surrounding them was different. It was a presence from innate confidence, so instead of saying the room was attracted to them, they were bent over by their powerful and unique presence.

Even Tong Yan and Chui Ying's first response when they saw them was bewilderment. However, that quickly turned into deep envy and resentment!

As fellow women, they were envious of Xinghe's looks and the gorgeous man she had by her side. This was because they didn't have a date with them!

Chui Ying did have someone who she could have asked to accompany her, but he was not in the country. Thankfully, she wasn't the main character that night or she might have lost it... just like Tong Yan. She was supposed to be the main character that night, but her existence was completely overshadowed by Xinghe. How could she not be angry?

"Ying Ying, can your plan really work?" Tong Yan asked with resentment.

Chui Ying nodded as her eyes scanned Xinghe coldly. "Of course, the Shen family owes us a big favor; they will do anything I tell them do."

"Perfect! Tonight, I want to make that b*tch be the night's biggest laughing stock!" Tong Yan glared viciously at Xinghe, she already couldn't wait to start their plan.

Shen Ru, who stood beside her, consoled, "Little Yan, don't get too ahead of yourself. We need to do this according to plan."

"I understand." Tong Yan nodded.

Shen Ru smiled and said, "Go on then, go and thank your grandfather."

Tong Yan took a deep breath, offered a presentable smile, and walked towards the stage. When she got on stage, the room quieted down again, waiting to see what she was going to do.

Tong Yan's eyes scanned the crowd and she subconsciously mimicked the way Xinghe carried herself and said, "Good evening, I, Tong Yan, would like to thank everyone for taking precious time to attend my birthday party. First, I have to inform everyone, the focus of this party is not to celebrate my birthday but to thank the Shen family for everything they have done and contributed to my mother and myself. I'm sure everyone has heard about everything that has happened. My mother and I are victims ourselves because we didn't expect such an accident to happen. This is such a pain in both of our hearts, but we feel the sorriest towards the Shen family!

"Grandfather, even though you're the only one who came today, I still wish to represent my mother to say that we're sorry and thank you! Thank you for your years of love and care, we will remember your kindness for as long as we live!"

Tong Yan choked on her tears as she went through her speech. Some in the crowd started to cry with her. Elder Shen sat in his chair and listened attentively to Tong Yan's words. His eyes were glistening; it was obvious that he too was touched.

At that moment, everyone thought Elder Shen would be moved by Tong Yan and reaccept Tong Yan and Shen Ru and the birthday party would become a touching reunion. However, what happened next shocked everyone.

After Tong Yan finished her speech, she walked down the stage and towards Elder Shen. Under everyone's gaze, she suddenly knelt before him!

Chapter 718: Pointing at Xia Xinghe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Shen and everyone else were astonished. What is she doing?

Xinghe and Mubai, who stood beside Elder Shen, didn't display any change in their emotions. They watched this with a cold eye.

“What are you doing?” Elder Shen asked Tong Yan hurriedly.

Tong Yan looked at her with misty eyes like a poor child.

“Grandfather, Mother and I can't choose how we are born, but we can choose our family. Can you please forgive us? We know our mistakes and will respect you as our most beloved elder from now on, so don't abandon us; we really cannot separate ourselves from you, because you are our closest family!”

Elder Shen thought they were only going to appreciate his care towards them in this party, turned out they still harbored the wish to return to the Shen family...

Elder Shen was not a cold-blooded person. He was indeed moved by what she said, however he had promised Xinghe to temporarily cut ties with them. For the sake of his lost daughter, he couldn't accept them back into the Shen family.

Elder Shen stretched out his hands to help Tong Yan stand up and sighed. “Please stand up, stop kneeling.”

“No!” Tong Yan rejected him stubbornly. “Grandfather, if you don't say you've forgiven us then I will not stand up!”

“Father, please forgive us!” Shen Ru also rushed over to beg him. Touched by the mother and daughter's performance, many people there couldn't help but pity and empathize with them. Some even helped them to convince Elder Shen.

“Elder Shen, why don't you forgive them? They didn't exactly do anything wrong, this is all the Lin family's fault and they didn't know anything about it, so you really shouldn't blame them.”

“That’s right, after all, you did raise them, even if they are not your biological kin, the decades of relationship still count for something, right?”

“Grandfather, can you please forgive us?” Tong Yan grabbed his arm tightly and begged through her tears.

Elder Shen said after a short silence, “Actually, I’ve never blamed either one of you, so please stand up, I really didn’t fault you two.”

“Really?” Tong Yan was surprised. “Grandpa, this means you’re ready to accept us back?”

“Father, you’re willing to take us back into the family? You’re willing to take me back as your daughter?” Shen Ru asked with anticipation.

Elder Shen shook his head. “We can discuss that later. Today is Little Yan’s birthday; let’s not ruin the occasion with such heavy details, please stand up.”

To his surprise, Tong Yan suddenly started crying again. “Grandfather! You already decided to reaccept us that day, but in just a matter of minutes, you reneged on your words. Why is that? Is it really because of her?”

Tong Yan pointed directly at Xinghe. Suddenly, Xinghe was put on the spotlight.

Elder Shen frowned with displeasure. “What does this have to do with Xinghe? Don’t simply accuse people.”

“I’m not! It is because of her that you decided to abandon us. That day, you’d already promised that you would reaccept us, but after a secret meeting with her in the study, you suddenly went back on your words. Even Xia Xinghe herself has admitted that she is the one pulling the strings. But I do not understand, she is nothing but your new step granddaughter, so why are you listening to her every word. I do not understand why that is. In your heart, is she more important than us? Could it be that she can offer you something our family cannot offer?”

Chapter 719: Their Plan

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Preposterous!” Elder Shen flared up instantly. A man as clever as him of course knew what Tong Yan was insinuating. Tong Yan’s words suggested that there was a salacious relationship between him and Xinghe. Xinghe was his junior; Chinese society deeply valued the familial hierarchy, so such an accusation could ruin his name and life.

However, Tong Yan didn’t seem like she was going to stop anytime soon. “If not, how can she easily manipulate our family relationship? Grandfather, even if I am not really your biological granddaughter, Xia Xinghe is even less related to you than I am. How can you abandon us for her? Grandfather, in your heart, are we really less important than this Xia Xinghe?”

“Father, I also demand an answer!” Shen Ru interrogated through tears, “In your heart, are we really more insignificant than Xia Xinghe? We didn’t do anything wrong apart from being born with the wrong bloodline. How could you treat us so heartlessly? No matter how hard Little Yan and I have begged for forgiveness, you still refused to listen to us. I don’t believe you hate us so much, so she must be of special importance to you. How else can you explain you being willing to kick us away so cruelly on the basis on her one word?”

“Xia Xinghe, explain yourself, what kind of love potion you’ve given my grandfather that he is so willing to listen to your commands?” Tong Yan pulled her body up to her full height and interrogated Xinghe fiendishly.

She managed to naturally push Xinghe and the Shen family into the public’s pointing fingers. In fact, the crowd was on her side. After all, she only wished to return to the Shen family because she couldn’t bear being away from her family. Therefore, her anger and sadness were one hundred percent justified.

No one suspected the begging that Shen Ru and Tong Yan did earlier was all a show. It was to prepare for this moment!

People would always sympathize with the weaker party, so their plan was to create the impression that they were bullied by Xinghe and used that to frame Xinghe. Everyone would stand on their side and would not suspect this was their machination.

So, this is their plan... Xinghe felt disappointed; she had expected more from them. She shouldn't have overestimated them it seemed.

"You, Xia, tell us, did you not seduce my father to make him turn his back on us?" Shen Ru continued the interrogation.

Before Xinghe could answer, Elder Shen announced angrily, "What nonsense are you two talking about? I've already said that this has nothing to do with Xinghe!"

"Grandfather, do you think we will believe that? Even Xia Xinghe herself has admitted it was she who purposely made you cut ties from us. Xia Xinghe, do you dare to say it one more time in front of the whole room?"

"Why wouldn't I dare?" Xinghe raised her eyebrow with interest and continued slowly. "Indeed, it was I who asked grandfather to cut ties from the both of you."

The crowd was shocked. It really is her doing! How can she be so vicious and shameless to demand something like this? However, why would Elder Shen listen to her and really cut ties with Shen Ru and Tong Yan because of her? Could it be that there is indeed something curious... between them?

Instantly, the way the room looked at them turned odd. Shen Ru and Tong Yan were elated. The fact that Xinghe admitted her wrongdoing so easily almost made them laugh aloud.

Chapter 720: Angered Elder Shen

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Everyone heard her, right? It is because of her that Grandfather refuses to accept us! Xia Xinghe, what have we done to you to make you come after us with such malice? Fine, since you’re so vicious, then we will not hold back anymore, from this moment on, my mother and I will do anything to defeat you!” Tong Yan quickly pushed the blame onto Xinghe.

Only by doing that could their future actions against Xinghe be rationalized. No matter what they did in the future, they would be forgiven because they were the ones being bullied. Everyone loves a comeback story.

Shen Ru took her cue and said, “Xia Xinghe, you are so calculative even at such a young age, you are truly a complicated woman! If we let an evil vixen like you continue to wander the Earth, then we will be doing the world a disservice! Today, we are exposing you to the whole world; it is time for you to receive your due punishment!”

Then, she raised her hand to slap Xinghe—

Before her slap could land, Mubai got hold of her in his firm grasp. His squeezed on her wrist and glared into her eyes. “Do you think she is someone you can even touch?”

Shen Ru was startled by the wrath in his eyes. “Let, let me go...”

“Get lost!” Mubai swung her off with derision and warned, “If you want to die then try that again!”

Shen Ru fell to the floor with a scream.

“Mommy!” Tong Yan ran to catch her. She yelled, “Security, Xi Mubai is attacking people! Someone call the cops; the Xi family is assaulting people!”

The security rushed over immediately but they didn’t do anything against Mubai. He wasn’t someone they could cross.

“What are you people standing there for? Toss him out immediately or he will continue to attack us!” Shen Ru struggled upright and ordered vehemently.

“Exactly who is the one being aggressive?” Xinghe suddenly said as she stared at them coldly. “I believe everyone here saw it was you who came to slap me first.”

“That is because, as your elder, I have the right to teach you a lesson. Is it wrong for me to straighten your evil ways?” Shen Ru demanded in return.

Elder Shen couldn't hold in his anger anymore. “Enough! What are you planning that you are slandering the name of a good person like Xinghe? Not only that, you two are plotting against me as well! I really didn't know there is such a side to the two of you!”

Elder Shen was really angered; he felt chilled by this new discovery. It was like he was seeing them for the first time, for who they really were. They might resent him for abandoning them, but that was no grounds for them to slander his name. He had loved them for decades and even if he knew they were part of the Lin family and had helped them, he asked the police to leave them be.

He just needed time before he could accept them again, but they had decided to deliberately smear his name simply because he didn't allow them to re-enter the Shen family. Even if they resented him, they should have known better than to doubt his character.

He couldn't help but ask himself, Do they really do not know what kind of person I am?

Finally, he understood; they did know him, but they were willfully creating this rumor about him. Elder Shen was not stupid, of course he realized they were taking revenge against him.

As he expected, his anger did nothing to stop them.

“Father, how can you say something like that to us?”

Chapter 721: Given to the Dogs

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“It is obvious that you’ve been seduced by this vixen; why else would you treat us so cruelly? Father, you have disappointed us! Since you have decided to turn your back on us for the sake of a stranger, then, you’ve lost the respect that we reserved for you. Father, you’ve forced us so!”

“That’s right, Grandfather, we’re deeply disappointed in you. How can you abandon us, your family, for a stranger? Grandfather, do you have any idea how heartbroken we are over this? How can you treat us like this...” Tong Yan started weeping again; she was so distraught that her voice was breaking. Shen Ru quickly took out a handkerchief to help her daughter.

Their performance was swaying the crowd to their side. They felt Elder Shen had crossed the line. He shouldn’t have treated them so unfairly simply because of something they couldn’t control. He must be a very cruel person for dismissing their decades of relationship just like that.

None of them really understood Elder Shen’s perspective. His daughter was stolen away by the Lin family and sent out to fend for herself since she was a baby. She might not even be alive, so how could he face Tong Yan and Shen Ru so easily?

Even so, he didn’t take any action against Shen Ru for teaming up with the Lin family to plot against them earlier. He just wanted to find his daughter and distance himself from his nemesis’ children, at least temporarily. Was that so wrong?

He had loved them for years, but did that mean he was required to love them forever? Did he owe them that much? Hadn’t he given enough? Was he a sinner simply because he stopped being nice to them?

What kind of logic was this? Why did the Shen family, as the biggest victim in all of this, still have to suffer such accusations and recrimination?

Fine, outsiders might not understand how he felt, but were Shen Ru and Tong Yan clueless to his pain?

They knew the agony that the Shen family was going through, but they would never empathize with the family since they would only put themselves first. If they understood him, they wouldn't have pressured him to reaccept them again and again.

They never wanted to make up for the mistakes that they had made; they just wanted to minimize the damage coming their way. Of course, he wasn't naïve enough to believe their claim that they couldn't bear to part from the Shen family. Elder Shen had raised them, so he knew the thing that they really couldn't part with were the benefits that the Shen family could give them.

When they were still part of the Shen family, he had decided to overlook this character flaw, and even now, he accepted their hatred towards him with a shrug of his shoulder, but why must they slander him so maliciously? This went to show the level of appreciation and respect they really had for him.

If they still had a conscience, they wouldn't have come up with the accusation as indecent as suggesting he was physically and romantically involved with Xinghe. Just what kind of human being would suggest something like that?

The realization of their ugly side truly chilled Elder Shen to his core. He lamented the years of affection he had lavished on them. He had given them the whole world, and this was how they repaid him?

He had raised two wolves to bite him in the behind!

No, they were worse than wolves. Even wolves would cultivate loyalty towards the person who had defended them, loved them, and fed them for years.

Chapter 722: Undeserving

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

But these two, they wouldn't hesitate to bite you if it benefited them in any way. They were probably born without a conscience, proving once and for all that it was indeed the Lin family's blood that was flowing through their veins. The more he thought about it, the more distressed he became. Shen Ru's and Tong Yan's weeping was giving him a mounting headache.

He stood up suddenly to announce, "Fine, do it your way! Since you hate me that much, then so be it. I, Shen Houde, have never done anything that is harmful towards the both of you, but there is no way I can still treat you two like family when my own daughter is still out there suffering. It has nothing to do with anyone if I decided to cut my ties from the both of you, but if you insist that it is for the sake of anyone, that person is my estranged biological daughter! Now, you should understand this is the end of our relationship, look after yourselves in the future. I will consider the Shen family unlucky for having raised the two of you ingrates. So, hate me if you want, but stop coming to bother us from now on!"

Elder Shen turned to leave. Tong Yan called out as if physically assaulted, "Grandfather, how can you be so cruel towards us? I thought I was still in your heart, we are still Shens, I really didn't expect that you would have such a heartless side to you. Grandfather, how can you turn on your own family like this..."

"Grandfather Shen, you have indeed crossed the line!" It was time to Chui Ying to enter the stage. She went to Tong Yan's side and pointed angrily at Elder Shen. "Grandfather Shen, I've always respected you as my elder, but your actions today have greatly disappointed me. Auntie Ru and Little Yan are both your family, even if they are not your biological kin, how can you abandon them just like that? Do you know how despicable your actions are?"

"Despicable?" Before Elder Shen could respond, Xinghe's eyes went as cold as winter. She glared at Chui Ying and

demanded, “So, you think it is required for us to pretend that nothing has ever happened and continue to pamper them? They have the Lin family’s precious bloodline; our Shen family has given them everything they’re worth and more. Enough is enough. I agree that one’s birth cannot be controlled, and we shouldn’t fault the children for the sins of the earlier generation, but it also depends on the children themselves whether they deserve to be forgiven or not. Based on everything that happened up until this moment, I will gladly tell you that these two don’t deserve the Shen family’s love and support anymore. If Shen Ru and Tong Yan know what is good for them, they should have made themselves scarce. However, they still have the audacity to lay claim to things that don’t belong to them, such insolence.”

“You’re the one being insolent!” Chui Ying was easily provoked by Xinghe. “Who are you to stick your grubby hands into Shen family’s business? Auntie Ru and Little Yan are the real Shens, the fact that you have stolen everything away from them aside, you even used tricks to make grandfather Shen distance himself from them. A vicious sl*t like yourself should know what is good for you and get lost!”

“You said I have no right to meddle in Shen family’s business?” Xinghe laughed coldly. She pointed at Shen Ru and Tong Yan and asked chillingly, “Then, don’t tell me they have the right...”

“Of course they do, they are raised by the Shen family!” Chui Ying answered factually.

Xinghe scoffed with condescension, “And that is truly eight lifetimes of bad luck for the Shen family to have raised their nemesis’ descendants and then still have them stubbornly latch onto the family; I’ve never seen such shameless people before.”

Chapter 723: Frame Herself

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You’re the shameless one!” Chui Ying was further enraged. “Who are you to get yourself into in the Shen family’s business? Your plan is to consume Shen family after you chase Auntie Ru and Little Yan away, right? I ask everyone here, isn’t a woman like her incredibly selfish, evil, calculative, and shameless?”

There were few in the crowd that nodded in agreement. Others didn’t really side with Xinghe, but this argument had dragged on for so many chapters that they had a hard time following it. Both sides seemed to have their own logic even though Xinghe had never actually defended herself.

This was because it was never Xinghe’s intention to argue with them when she had the facts on her side. She didn’t feel like she was required to explain herself to Tong Yan and Shen Ru. She only knew they had taken over everything that belonged to her mother. Therefore, it was time for them to make themselves scarce!

No one had the right to lay claim to the stuff that should belong to her mother, especially not Shen Ru and Tong Yan. She would not hesitate to teach them a lesson if they were so stubborn.

However, it was still not yet time to tip her hand since her enemies hadn’t made their move yet. She was going to lure them into playing their trump card and then she was going to pick up that card and slap their faces with it!

“You said I am selfish, evil and shameless,” Xinghe commented snidely, “But at least I’m better than them because the Shen family admitted me into their fold, but they have kicked these two out. On this point alone, I have more rights than these two to be involved in the Shen family’s business. And you’re right, it is my intention to chase them away because the Shen family no longer has any space for them. In fact, I will do you one better and tell everyone here openly, as

long as I am around, they will never return to the Shen family. So, what are you going to do about that?”

“You...” Chui Ying was beside herself with anger. She didn’t expect Xinghe to claim something so shameless so openly. Shen Ru, Tong Yan, and everyone there were surprised by her utter shamelessness.

How shameless is she to be able to say something like that without batting an eye? Isn’t she afraid Elder Shen will have some opinions about what she said?

Elder Shen was indeed baffled when she said that. Wasn’t she doing herself a disservice by saying those things?

However, he understood Xinghe wasn’t someone that dumb, she wouldn’t commit to something like this without a deeper purpose. Elder Shen snuck a glance at Mubai and noticed he didn’t seem to be surprised by what Xinghe said. In fact, he looked like he approved of the message. Elder Shen hesitated but finally decided to keep his opinions to himself.

However, the same couldn’t be said for everyone else.

“How can this woman be so vicious? Madam President only recently accepted her as her stepdaughter, and she really thinks she is a part of the Shen family? How can she be so shameless?”

“You’re right, she is indeed shameless to a fault.”

“Not only that, she is also incredibly arrogant! The Shen family must have lost their minds when they accepted someone like her into their family.”

“I’ve never seen a more shameless woman in my life!”

Everyone was heckling Xinghe. Witnessing this, Chui Ying’s group was delighted. The dumb woman had handed them the smoking gun!

Now, the time was ripe for them to finally send her directly from heaven to hell!

It was time for Chui Ying to perform her coup-de-grace.

Chapter 724: Disown Xia Xinghe

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Grandfather Shen.” She turned towards Elder Shen and said in a convincing tone, “Do you still want to take Xia Xinghe as your step granddaughter even after she showed her true self?”

Elder Shen glanced at Xinghe and answered softly, “This is the Shen family’s own business; you shouldn’t worry yourself over it.”

Chui Ying gave a disappointed expression. “In other words, you’re not going to do anything to punish her? Fine, Grandfather Shen, then you cannot fault me for what happens next. This is for the sake of Auntie Ru and Little Yan, at the same time, I hope it will be a wake-up call for you. Therefore, now I demand that you disown Xia Xinghe and I order the whole Shen family to cut all ties from her!”

Everyone was shocked. Who gave her the right to demand something like that?

Elder Shen was befuddled but he quickly caught up to Chui Ying’s plan. As he expected, Chui Ying lifted her chin and announced arrogantly to the room, “Probably not everyone knows this, but the Shen family owes our Chui family a very big favor. Grandfather Shen once promised that he would fulfil a request made by our Chui family as long as the request doesn’t violate human decency. Now I demand that you fulfil your promise and the request I make is for your Shen family to disown Xia Xinghe and there cannot be any interaction between you and her in the future!”

Xinghe raised her brow with interest. So, this is their plan... Invite us to the party and then perform a pity party to get the crowd to side with Shen Ru and Tong Yan, by creating the impression that it is because of me that the Shen family abandoned them. Then Chui Ying would step out because she ‘couldn’t stand to see such injustice’ and then propose this demand.

All of this to rationalize their ultimate goal of chasing Xinghe out of the Shen family. This was their way of taking revenge

against her, to get Shen family to disown Xinghe. Since Xinghe chased them away, they were going to do the same with her. Of course, they had to do it in front of a large group, to maximize the shame that Xinghe would feel.

Xinghe assumed they would set a trap for her, but in the end, they came up with something as petty as this. She almost laughed in derision, because all their planning would be for nothing!

Elder Shen didn't know about the information in Xinghe's possession. He was indeed surprised by Chui Ying's request.

"You want our Shen family to disown Xinghe?" He asked in shock.

Chui Ying nodded. "That's right, if you cannot do it then it means that you are a liar. Grandfather Shen, I believe you are a man of your words so there is no way you wouldn't honor your own promise, right?"

Elder Shen was incensed. This was such an obvious oppression; however, he did owe Chui family a large favor.

"Change it to something else!" Elder Shen said with difficulty, "I personally accepted Xinghe as my granddaughter so how can I disown her. You're asking too much of me; I wish for you to change your request."

Chui Ying scoffed coldly. "It is asking too much of you to have disown Xia Xinghe, but when Xia Xinghe asked to cut ties with Auntie Ru and Little Yan, you agreed so easily! Grandfather Shen, your preferential treatment truly chills me to the core! However, I still demand that you disown Xia Xinghe right this moment or the entire Shen family will have proven themselves to be a hovel of ingrates and reprobates!"

Chapter 725: Expose Them

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You...” Elder Shen was speechless from sheer anger.

Chui Ying had been attacking him from the role of the victim, so almost everyone was on their side. No matter how unreasonable Chui Ying’s demand was, they feel it was justified. If anything, they felt the Shen family was being unreasonable. They all felt Elder Shen shouldn’t have treated Shen Ru and Tong Yan so unfairly. His preferential treatment did rub many the wrong way.

This was Chui Ying’s plan all along. They managed to take revenge against Xinghe and Elder Shen while having the support of the crowd. Elder Shen wanted to explain himself, but he couldn’t.

Witnessing his frustration and anger made Shen Ru and Tong Yan felt great within. At the same time, their resentment against him deepened. How could he be so cruel to cut ties from them but be so unwilling to do the same to Xia Xinghe?

This preferential treatment made Shen Ru and Tong Yan grit their teeth in anger.

Shen Ru immediately asked pointedly, “Father, you are so unwilling to let Xia Xinghe go, is it because there is really something salacious between the both of you?”

“What nonsense are you talking about?” Elder Shen roared with anger before he felt like fainting from high blood pressure.

Shen Ru ignored him and continued yelling, in fact, she wished this old geezer would die on the spot, “If not, why wouldn’t you agree to Ying Ying’s request? From how I see it, the two of you...”

Before Shen Ru could finish, she felt a slap on her face. Shen Ru was stunned by this sudden slap. She widened her eyes in shock and the room was equally shocked.

It was Xinghe who slapped her...

“You, you dare to attack me?” Shen Ru asked in disbelief, the anger burning in her eyes was strong enough to engulf the whole world.

“Xia Xinghe, you b*tch, how dare you raise your hand against my mother? I will never forgive you!” Tong Yan rushed towards him in anger, ready to return to Xinghe the slap. Ali stepped forth quickly to shove her back. Even Mubai stood guard in front of Xinghe, not giving anyone the chance to hurt her.

Chui Ying yelled resentfully, “Xia woman, how can you physically assault people? You are indeed one lawless, barbaric woman!”

“Those with a dirty mouth deserve to be slapped.” Xinghe glared at them sharply and exposed their intention without reservations. “The bunch of you not only have dirty mouths but also dirty hearts. From the very beginning, you’ve been planning for this moment, to take revenge against me and simultaneously drag the Shen family into the mud. Others might not be able to understand the tricks you’re playing but it is as clear as day in my eyes. All your sadness and melancholy were all acting to garner sympathy so that it would rationalize your revenge against us, am I right?”

Chui Ying’s group was aghast. She... is right about everything.

Xinghe’s words also helped Elder Shen calm down because it now seemed like everything was still in his step granddaughter’s control.

“Preposterous! It is because you people are being too unreasonable and unfair towards Auntie Ru and Little Yan that I had to come up with such a request!” Chui Ying retorted righteously. “It is because you’ve seduced Grandfather Shen to make him treat them so badly that I have to step in! And someone like you should be taught a lesson and you deserve to be kicked out of the Shen family because you have no right to the things that naturally belong to Auntie Ru and Little Yan!”

“I have no right?” Xinghe scoffed, “If I had no right, do you think I would care whether they stay in Shen family or not? If

I had no right, do you think I would have grandfather distance himself from them? I will tell you now, I, Xia Xinghe have every right to stay and to demand that they get out of the Shen family!”

Chui Ying laughed in Xinghe’s face. “You are truly one shameless woman. You have the right? Fine, tell me then, what gives you this right to be so shameless?”

Chapter 726: Shen Family's Bloodline

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Give it to her,” Xinghe ordered suddenly.

Ali, who had been waiting for this moment, tossed the DNA test result squarely, harshly, and excitedly at Chui Ying's face. Chui Ying groaned from pain, and her features were twisted from anger. She had never been so insulted in her life before. How dare this group of people humiliated her thusly?

Chui Ying flipped her top off and screeched, “Xia Xinghe, how dare you treat me like this, do you know who I am? B*tch, I will never forgive you!”

“You deserve it,” Xinghe commented matter-of-factly. She then continued with imposing presence, “Open your eyes and see clearly what that is.”

Chui Ying was taken aback. Someone else had already seen the title of the document. He said, “DNA test results?”

The term silenced the room immediately. Their attention was drawn to the DNA test, what kind of result was it?

Xinghe explained coldly, “To be specific, this is a DNA test result between Grandfather Shen and myself.”

“What?” Elder Shen gasped in surprise. A DNA test result between himself and Xinghe?

Tong Yan grabbed at the test subconsciously and the moment her eyes landed on the first page, her face fell. The result was clear as day, Xinghe and Elder Shen had... blood relations that skipped a generation!

“How is this possible?” Tong Yan's face was as white as a sheet of paper. Shen Ru pulled the result from her and her face blanched as well.

“Impossible!” she yelped in disbelief. “This is fake, how can you possess Shen family's bloodline? This is impossible!”

What—

This was another wave of shock to everyone there. Xinghe carried the Shen family's bloodline?

Elder Shen was the one most shocked by this news. He took the result to read it himself and he still found the result on it hard to believe.

"What is going on?" Elder Shen asked Xinghe with a shaking voice, "Xinghe, you, you are my..."

Xinghe nodded. "That's right, Grandfather, I am your biological granddaughter and my mother is your second daughter."

Xinghe's proclamation sent another shockwave through the crowd. How is this possible? The Shen family's second daughter was sent overseas by the Lin family and her fate until now was still an unknown. How can she be this Xia Xinghe's mother? More absurd is the fact that Elder Shen has already admitted her as his step granddaughter when, in fact, she was his biological granddaughter all along! Is there really such a coincidence in this world? This must be some kind of fictional world we're living in!

Shen Ru pointed at Xinghe with shaking finger. "This is fake. B*tch, how dare you use a fake DNA test to try to fool us? You cannot be from the Shen family; this is impossible."

"I also didn't think that was possible, but it is the truth," Xinghe replied calmly and there was confident force behind her every syllable. "If you want to challenge the authenticity of the report, I don't mind taking it again, but I, Xia Xinghe, am a Shen! That is the truth, our bloodline is the best proof."

Shen Ru's face turned even whiter. No, this is not happening.

However, her instincts told her that Xinghe wasn't lying. The same thought was going through Tong Yan and Chui Ying's minds. Xia Xinghe is really Elder Shen's biological granddaughter!

Chapter 727: No Longer Deserve the Shen Name

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

She was the real deal! Tong Yan assumed that, as long as they couldn't find Shen family's second miss, she and her mother would still have the chance to sneak their way back into the Shen family, because it would mean that they hadn't been completely replaced.

However, that dream was shattered. More than that, the person had to be Xia Xinghe's mother.

Thinking back to everything that had happened between her and Xinghe, and most importantly, how Xinghe had usurped her position as the Shen family's only granddaughter, she felt like she was going crazy!

It was hard enough for her to accept that she had lost the Shen family, but now, Xinghe had completely taken over her role. She not only ruined everything, she had replaced her fully and completely!

She no longer had any right to isolate Xinghe because she was the real outsider.

Tong Yan finally lost it and screamed crazily, "This is not happening! This is fake, how can you be Grandpa's granddaughter? I am! There must be deep mistake with this DNA report. Xia Xinghe, you must have paid off the doctors, because you cannot be me, I demand that we redo this test, I must expose your falsity!"

Chui Ying was swayed by her friend and came to her aid. "That's right, this report must have been falsified. Grandfather Shen, I demand a redo; Xia Xinghe must be lying. This is her wickedness showing again, Little Yan is your only biological granddaughter!"

Humans are best at self-deception. Even Shen Ru was convinced by Tong Yan's and Chui Ying's words, she believed fully that this was Xinghe's tricks. She even suspected the earlier result that told her she was a Lin was Xinghe's trick as well. How else could she explain all these coincidences?

Therefore, there had to be a mistake.

“Father, there has to be something wrong with this. We must redo the DNA test; I have to be your daughter!” Shen Ru said with a crazed conviction.

Chui Ying chimed in, “That’s right, like I said earlier, Grandfather Shen, this Xia Xinghe is too suspicious, you mustn’t believe her. Auntie Ru and Little Yan are you blood kin, there is no denying that!”

“Father, that’s right, we are your real blood and flesh!” Shen Ru nodded agitatedly, she had poured all her faith into this last hope and life-saving straw.

Xinghe suddenly scoffed. “Even after so many tests, do you people still refuse to face the truth?”

“Xia Xinghe, you must be playing us for fools. All the reports from before are fakes; they have to be!” Shen Ru retorted angrily.

“I believe Grandfather knows in his heart who is real and who is fake.”

Elder Shen announced severely, “There’s no need for another test! I believe fully Xinghe is my biological granddaughter and you two have indeed proven yourselves to be carrying the Lin family’s blood!”

“Father, how can you believe her? You must wake up from her seduction...”

Before Shen Ru could finish, another landed on her face, but this time it was Elder Shen who slapped her. Shen Ru stared at him blankly, her brain couldn’t process what was happening. She couldn’t believe the father that had loved her for decades would raise his hand against her. This was the first time he had ever done that!

Elder Shen glared solemnly at her and denounced her, “Shen Ru, from today onwards, you no longer have the right to bear the Shen name!”

Chapter 728: Lose Everything

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Initially, even though it has been proven that you’re not my biological daughter, I still felt in some ways indebted to you. But today, you two have completely disappointed me! I didn’t think you two would stoop to such a level to slander me and Xinghe! I’ve given you two so many chances, but you’ve squandered them all. I didn’t realize the two of you have such despicable personalities, but I guess this is a good thing, because it has allowed me to see the real you. From today onwards, our Shen family will no longer have anything to do with you two. I will pretend that I’ve raised two dogs instead. From now on, you two are not allowed to use the Shen family name anymore!”

Elder Shen’s announce proved his determination. Shen Ru and Tong Yan were stunned speechless. Their faces were as ugly as they could be. Their plan that day was to take revenge against Xinghe and Elder Shen. Everything was going their way, but they didn’t foresee the possibility that Xinghe could be Elder Shen’s biological granddaughter.

Now, their revenge plot had completely resolved and had enraged Elder Shen to such a point that he was going to completely cut all ties from them. At that point, Shen Ru and Tong Yan finally understood the meaning of fear.

Why were they so stupid? Coming after the Shen family would give them no benefits. Earlier, when the Shen family stayed away from them, they could still survive in City A using the Tong family’s name. But now, Elder Shen had stated his intention to disown them in front of everyone, who else would dare to align themselves with them in the future?

The Shen family was the biggest family in City A after the Lin family had been taken down. Without the Shen family’s backing, who dared to befriend them and earn the Shen family’s ire?

Even the Tong family would probably start to isolate them!

Therefore, they had really taken the wrong step this time. Their life had completely been ruined.

Shen Ru suddenly cried out in fear, “Father, I’m sorry, I was wrong. Please forgive me, it is because I am unable to part from you that I did such things. Dad, please don’t disown us, you cannot treat us this way...”

However, Elder Shen had already seen through her ploy. She had shown him who she really was. Elder Shen would never trust them again. From his perspective, all their begging had to be hiding an ulterior motive.

He even regretted showing them compassion earlier, because the way they repaid his compassion was to take revenge against him. Elder Shen was chilled to his core by their pretenses.

Therefore, no matter how hard Shen Ru begged or confessed, Elder Shen was unmoved. The only emotion he felt was disappointment.

Shen Ru noticed that the crowd that had sided with her earlier had slowly moved away from her corner and she cried with even greater despair. No one was willing to come to her aid. She finally realized how badly she had screwed up, but it was already too late.

Looking at her distraught mother, Tong Yan felt that chilling despair grab at her soul...

Right then, Elder Tong suddenly parsed through the crowd to give her a slap on her face and lectured her severely, “Look at this mess the two of you have created! From now on, you are not allowed to take one step out of the house or else the Tong family will disown the two of you as well!”

Tong Yan looked at her grandfather who would love her unconditionally with shuddering eyes. Am I going to lose everything?

Even their space in the Tong family had dwindled. After losing the Shen family’s support, her and her mother’s positions were no longer that precious.

Chapter 729: Completely Cross Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

But after losing the Tong family, they would really be nothing. However, Tong Yan also understood it was too late to fix things now. She was no longer the precious Tong family's heiress. She would lose the respect that she had forced others into giving her. Her future was ruined... at least her mom had half her leg into the coffin, what about her?

She was only 22! She still had so much life in front of her...

Fear and despair gripped at Tong Yan's heart; she stood there like a mannequin as if her soul had left her body. She and Shen Ru had lost their earlier arrogance. Their effort and plan were ruined by a single DNA test report.

No matter how hard they laid claim to the moral high ground, the basis of their demand was undermined because Xinghe had the right to stay in the Shen family and kick them out because, unlike them, she was related to the Shen family by blood.

This development turned everything around. Now it seemed like Xinghe was in the right all along and they were exposed as the ones being unreasonable.

Shen Ru really didn't expect Xinghe to be part of the Shen family, but why would such an atrocious coincidence happen to her but not them? They deserved it more than she did...

The more Shen Ru dwelled on it, the more difficult she felt. Eventually, she started cackling like a crazy woman.

"She has lost it, everyone, stay away!" Ali yelled out in alarm. The crowd immediately parted from the pair of mother and daughter. The sudden isolation sent Shen Ru and Tong Yan into deeper despair. Even Chui Ying, who was isolated alongside them, was not feeling so peachy.

She didn't expect the plan that she had ninety percent confidence in would fail so gloriously. This is just perfect, now I'm part of the laughing stock.

She, however, failed to realize that her bigger mistake was crossing the Shen family...

Thankfully, Xinghe was there to remind her of that. After all, Xinghe's target wasn't Tong Yan and Shen Ru but Chui Ying. She stared at Chui Ying and demanded chillingly, "Miss Chui, now do you still want the Shen family to observe their promise to you from so many years ago?"

Chui Ying's face fell. How could she answer this? Xinghe was related to the Shen family by blood, this was not a connection that she could remove easily.

However, she quickly calmed down and countered, "Who knows whether you are really related to the family or not? Even if you are, you have purposely kept it a secret to use it to shame Auntie Ru and Little Yan during this party, right? Xia Xinghe, you are truly one despicable woman!"

"May I remind you that it was you people who invited me to this party? Was it not you who started the aggression by demanding the Shen family cut ties from me?" Xinghe chided her with cold laugh. "If you people didn't already have the intention of taking revenge on us, would things have developed this way? So, who really is the one being despicable here? I'm sure everyone has the answer in their hearts. In fact, I even suspect it is you, Miss Chui, who gave Tong Yan and Shen Ru the courage to act this way. So, Miss Chui, I return your exact words back to you, you are indeed one despicable woman."

"You, you are framing me..." Chui Ying stuttered. She didn't expect Xinghe would push all the blame onto her. She represented Country R's president and the Shen family had Hwa Xia's Madam President. If the Shen family really suspected her of manipulating Tong Yan and Shen Ru, it would be an international crisis. This was not a blame that she could shoulder.

"You know perfectly well whether I'm framing you or not."

Chapter 730: Remember This Threat

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe asked with a clear voice, “If you didn’t promise that they could use the favor owed by the Shen family to force them to disown me, would they have dared to openly challenge the Shen family like this? Am I wrong?”

Chui Ying’s face was one of surprise. How did she find out?

Everyone else was equally shocked, they felt Xinghe’s argument was logical. Indeed, this possibly was all Chui Ying’s ploy.

Elder Shen glared at her and demanded vehemently, “What is your purpose for doing this? Why are you coming after us like this?”

“I am not!” Chui Ying countered with indignation. “I have no reason to make an enemy out of you, the only reason I helped Little Yan is because I cannot stomach the way you people bullied her. Is it a sin now to help your friend? I did nothing wrong, so don’t try to pin this on me!”

“Even so, it doesn’t excuse your actions,” Xinghe derided her. “Miss Chui, you came from a good family background, so don’t tell me you were unable to see through Tong Yan’s acting. But I am warning you now, if you dare to come after us as their friend, then don’t fault us when we come after you.”

“Are you threatening me?” Chui Ying widened her eyes in shock. No one dared to openly humiliate and threaten her like this before. However, Xinghe had done all those things to her that day.

Xinghe didn’t show any sign of slowing down. She raised her brow and said, “That’s right, I am threatening you, and you’d better take it to heart.”

“You...” Chui Ying clenched her fists in anger. At that moment, Xinghe became the sole recipient of her hatred. No one could live after humiliating and threatening her thusly!

She swore to take swift revenge on Xinghe!

Naturally, Xinghe saw the hatred burning in her eyes, but she wasn't afraid of it, in fact, she was satisfied. If she didn't anger Chui Ying, how else was she going to get the leverage she needed?

She was the opening for Xinghe to hit at the He Lan family. Since the He Lan family had dealings with the Chui family, then she had to take care of the Chui family as well. In essence, Xinghe would mow down whomever dared stand in her way!

Xinghe had never claimed that she was a saint; she wouldn't hesitate to make use of others to achieve her goal. However, Chui Ying wasn't an innocent party either. Since she chose to put herself on the opposing side from Xinghe, then she couldn't fault Xinghe for the disasters that would continue to come her way.

In this world, victories are for the strongest, the capable, the winners!

Therefore, from that moment on, it depended on their own effort to fight for the winning seat. However, Xinghe prayed that her opponent wouldn't be too weak, or else she would be easily bored.

Xinghe glanced at Chui Ying one last time but she didn't say anything. She took Elder Shen's hand and said, "Grandfather, let's go."

There was no need for them to stay at the party anymore. She wasn't going to waste any more time on Tong Yan and Shen Ru.

Elder Shen noticed how much closer she had gotten to him and he laughed joyfully. "Okay, let's go!"

He didn't want to stay at that godforsaken party anymore anyway. Mubai supported Elder Shen on the other side and they shuffled out of the party.

Chui Ying's hatred-filled eyes bore holes on Xinghe's back and she promised herself she would teach the b*tch a lesson when the time came!

...

After Xinghe's group left, they departed towards the Shen family's house.

In the car, Elder Shen started bombarding Xinghe with questions.

Chapter 731: Don't Bully Her

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Xinghe, you're really my granddaughter, right? The DNA result is also real, isn't it?”

Xinghe nodded with a smile. “They are real.”

Elder Shen still hadn't recovered from his shock. “How can things be so coincidental? How did you find out about the truth?”

“My mother also came from that orphanage. I only suspected they might be one and the same; I hadn't expected that the DNA result would prove me right,” Xinghe answered happily.

Elder Shen was surprised. “Your mother also came from that same orphanage? That explains a lot, but how come I didn't hear you bring this up before?”

“I only found out about this recently too.”

“Then where is your mother now?” Elder Shen asked as he sat up straight.

Xinghe shook her head. “I'm sorry, she has been missing for many years.”

Elder Shen then remembered Xinghe mentioning that her mother had disappeared. The hope that he had brought up was vanquished and he visibly deflated.

“What if she got into some kind of accident? Would that explain her disappearance?” he asked in agitation.

Xinghe didn't answer, instead she asked, “Grandfather, do you believe that I am your granddaughter just like that? You don't want to redo the test?”

Elder Shen looked at her and said confidently, “I believe you because you have no reason to lie to me. I know you better than you think I do; I know you are above tricking me.”

Xinghe was touched that he would trust her so implicitly.

“Grandfather, I'm glad to have found you all; I will do everything I can to make up for the years that we have lost,”

Xinghe promised in a whisper. Tears welled up Elder Shen's eyes. With Tong Yan as his only heir, he really thought the Shen family was going to dry up. Thankfully, the heavens still smiled upon him, give him news about his lost daughter, and even presented him with a brilliant granddaughter.

He already liked Xinghe and now that she was his biological granddaughter, he was overjoyed. He felt comforted and proud that she was so capable and talented.

Elder Shen sighed. "The gods are still kind to me it seems. Even though the Shen family has lost a lot, they have given me you in return. I could die happy now that we have found you!"

"Elder Shen, it is Xinghe's joy too that she can reconnect with you all," Mubai added with a smirk. Xinghe looked at him with surprise, how could he read her thoughts?

However, she was thankful because he helped her voice out the things that she was too shy to say.

Elder Shen glanced at Mubai and when he did, he asked unconsciously, "Mubai, if I'm not mistaken, you like our Xinghe, right?"

Mubai was slightly taken aback, he didn't expect this question. However, he recovered quickly and nodded seriously. "I do!"

"Do you two plan to remarry?"

"Yes! I'm planning to remarry her, and I will never disappoint her again," Mubai answered in a serious tone.

Elder Shen suddenly started laughing. "Good, good! You've promised to not disappoint our Xinghe, so if you dare to bully her in any way, remember that you have the whole Shen family to answer to."

Mubai nodded obediently, "I won't, I will not bully her, but she can bully me any time she wants."

Elder Shen started guffawing again. "Perfect, I'll be glad if you do end up together because you two do look perfect for each other."

Chapter 732: Model Out Her Looks

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“And both of you complement each other so nicely. I am really happy that such good things can still happen to me in my twilight years. This is really nice...”

Elder Shen started to get teary-eyed again, but these were tears of joy. Earlier, he was envious that Elder Xi had such wonderful progeny. He really didn't expect he would be so lucky as well.

He was thankful that he had found Xinghe and, by extension, Mubai. That day was probably the happiest he had been in a long time.

The only regret was not finding his daughter but getting Xinghe was more than enough. In the car, Elder Shen called his wife and eldest daughter to share the good news.

When she received the news, Madam President immediately rushed to the family house. Regarding the fact that Xinghe was a Shen, they were surprised and shocked. However, the DNA test wouldn't lie.

Furthermore, Madam President had a good impression of Xinghe or else she wouldn't have accepted her as her stepdaughter. Now, that wouldn't be necessary anymore because she was her biological niece!

“How can things be so coincidental? It's hard not to believe that everything has already been predestined.”

Madam President looked at Xinghe and sighed with disbelief.

Old Madam Shen also lamented, “You're right, it has to be predestined. Our ancestors must be watching over us or else we wouldn't have found them in this life.”

Madam President grabbed hold of Xinghe's hand and said kindly, “Xinghe, no wonder I've always felt so close to you, like family, turns out you are my sister's daughter. Then you shouldn't call me stepmom anymore, call me Auntie Yu.”

Xinghe answered obediently, “Auntie Yu.”

“Good! What a fine child!” Madam President was so excited; she had tears in her eyes. Even Old Madam Shen couldn’t help but tear up as well. They were glad that the Shen family’s future was finally secure.

Compared to Tong Yan, Xinghe was a million times better. Perhaps blood was indeed thicker than water, they accepted Xinghe into their fold easily. They lavished their love and attention on her.

Xinghe understood their feelings. Even though she wasn’t used to being in the spotlight, she cooperated quietly.

After more cooing, the topic finally turned to someplace else.

Old Madam Shen suddenly asked with anticipation, “Do you have any pictures of your mother? I wish to take a look at her.”

“That’s right, do you have any pictures of her?” Elder Shen chimed in.

Xinghe shook her head. “Unfortunately, I don’t because she never left behind any picture of her, but I can model her looks for you.”

“Model her look?” Madam President was startled.

Xinghe nodded. “That’s right, but I need a computer.”

“Get the young miss a computer immediately!” Elder Shen ordered, and a maid quickly brought in a laptop.

Xinghe switched open the laptop and started working.

Elder Shen and the rest saw the masterful way she operated the computer and were appropriately impressed. Even though they knew beforehand that she was talented with a computer, witnessing it for themselves was still quite shocking.

Xinghe didn’t disappoint them. In matter of minutes, she managed to model out the 3D image of a woman.

Chapter 733: Grim News

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Elder Shen was thrilled when he saw the 3D model.

“That is my daughter, there she is!” Elder Shen pointed at the model and exclaimed agitatedly. Xinghe was confused, how could he be so sure?

Madam President answered her confusion with a smile.

“Xinghe, your mother looks the exact same as my aunt.”

“It is like they are the same person!” Old Madam Shen was equally excited.

Elder Shen laughed happily. “No wonder they say the niece takes after her aunt. There is nothing else for me to suspect now that I’ve seen your mother’s appearance. It is true, your mother has to be a Shen!”

Similarly, Madam President and Old Madam Shen accepted this news readily. This was because Xinghe’s mother really did look similar to Elder Shen’s sister when she was young. This resolved one of the things Xinghe was confused about because her mother really didn’t look like anyone from the Shen family that she knew. As it turned out, her mother took after her aunt.

“Can you print this out for me?” Old Madam Shen asked in a tone that was akin to begging. They didn’t have any pictures of Xinghe’s mother. However, Xinghe rejected this seemingly small request.

“Not now because it might cause her physical danger,” she explained softly.

Elder Shen was shocked. “Why?”

Xinghe looked at them and came to a decision in her heart. She decided to tell them everything she knew about Project Galaxy!

...

At the same time, Chui Ying was on the phone with He Lan Qi.

“Qi, the plan has failed. You wanted me to ruin the Shen family and cause their name to turn sour, but the plan has failed,” Chui Ying reported to him in a disappointed voice.

He Lan Qi didn't show any sign of anger. His tone was still as understanding as ever, but there was a barely discernible drop in the temperature when he spoke to her. “Why did it fail?”

Chui Ying led him through the situation. “Initially I planned to use Shen Ru's and Tong Yan's feud with that Xia Xinghe to ruin the Shen family's name and make that Old Man Shen lose his reputation, but the girl turned out to be his biological granddaughter, so that completely undermined my plan.”

“What did you say?” He Lan Qi's tone immediately went cold. “Xia Xinghe is that old geezer's biological granddaughter?”

“That's right. She even came with the DNA report, so it doesn't look like a lie.”

“Who is her mother then? Hwa Xia's Madam President?” He Lan asked with uncertainty.

Chui Ying laughed for a tiny bit. “How is that possible? Naturally she is the daughter of Old Man Shen's other daughter.”

This news managed to stun He Lan Qi. Xia Xinghe is... The second Shen miss's daughter, how is that possible? No one from that orphanage should even appear in this world, so how could one of them give birth to a daughter?

This was an absolutely grim piece of news for He Lan Qi.

He ordered seriously, “From now on, follow Xia Xinghe's every move closely, remember to report to me daily.”

“Okay, I understand. But when can I go back? I've missed you so dearly,” Chui Ying couldn't help but asked for a little more attention.

He Lan Qi laughed charmingly. “In a few days, after I've settled everything here, you can come back.”

“Okay, but why are you suddenly so interested in the Shen family's dealings?” Chui Ying asked.

“That is a secret that I cannot reveal to you yet.”

“I understand. Do understand that I will follow your command to a tee because I’ve fallen helplessly in love with you...”

Chui Ying confessed sweetly over the phone, but He Lan Qi was no longer listening.

Chapter 734: Exposed

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After He Lan Qi hung up the phone, his gaze turned icy. He didn't think his desire to create chaos among the Shen family to take their attention away from their search at Country R would lead to the discovery of such a huge secret. Xia Xinghe was the second Shen Miss's daughter. No wonder she left without saying goodbye, she must have discovered the truth.

But how was that related to her becoming part of the Shen family?

Furthermore, there was the mystery of her name, Xinghe...

He Lan Qi felt for certain there must be something else that he didn't know which had happened. Perhaps their secret had been exposed!

He Lan Qi quickly went to consult his father. He Lan Chang was equally surprised when he was told.

"Father, the news must have leaked somehow. I suspect someone escaped from the orphanage many years ago," He Lan Qi said with a serious expression.

He Lan Chang's face was dark. "You are right, someone must have escaped. We have no way of telling how many, but it is certain that the girl from the Shen family was one of them. However, this is weird, because until now, there has been no report that any one of them are missing."

"Perhaps they returned after they escaped," He Lan Qi guessed.

He Lan Chang nodded. "There is such a possibility. Get me Ah Bin, I have something for him to do."

"Yes, Father." He Lan Qi nodded but there was a flash of condescension in his eyes. Soon, this man by the name of Ah Bin arrived. He was physically large but there was no visible trace of emotion on his face. There was no soul in his eyes. If one looked closer, one might notice his resemblance to the He Lan Chang.

When he saw him, the condescension reappeared in the depths of He Lan Qi's eyes. Ah Bin ignored him and said to He Lan Chang respectfully, "You're looking for me?"

He Lan Chang looked at him and ordered, "I have a mission for you. Go to Hwa Xia's City A immediately to investigate this woman by the name of Xia Xinghe, pay special attention to her mother. I want to know everything about them, the more detailed the better. Remember, do not let anyone notice you, and this mission mustn't fail, understand?"

"Yes, sir." Ah Bin nodded.

He Lan Chang waved him away and there was no trace of warmth in his eyes. "Depart now."

"Yes, sir." Ah Bin was like a soldier who only knew how to follow orders.

The moment he left, He Lan Qi grumbled with dissatisfaction, "Father, we have so many people, why did you send him?"

He Lan Chang explained, "I can only trust him now, considering the severity of the situation."

"But is he really trustworthy?" He Lan Qi laughed coolly. "I feel he might be the most untrustworthy."

"He is my son so no matter what, he will not betray us so easily," He Lan Chang said confidently.

He Lan Qi scoffed, "But we have never treated him like he is part of the family, what if he chooses to betray us this time?"

A bloodlust appeared in He Lan Chang's eyes. "If he dares to betray us then we kill him!"

There was no trace of sadness or unwillingness in his declaration. Other than He Lan Qi, everyone was one of his disposable tools. Even if the person was his own son, he wouldn't hesitate to remove the possible threat.

He Lan Qi was satisfied with his father's answer. At the same time, a plan hatched in his mind, perhaps he could make use of this opportunity to eliminate this bastard child!

Chapter 735: Took the Bait

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He Lan Qi's icy smirk deepened, but no one realized the emotion that flashed only temporarily. After sending Ah Bin away, He Lan Chang continued his investigation into who was it that had escaped so many years ago.

He had no idea who the Shen family's second daughter was or what she looked like, so he could only start by investigating Xinghe. However, his research turned up nothing; there was literally no information on Xinghe's mother.

Therefore, it was impossible to uncover the woman's identity in a short period of time. However, it would be a matter of time until the Shen family's second daughter was known. After all, they had Elder Shen's DNA sample and the database from their orphanage that they told the world had been destroyed.

While the He Lan family was busy looking for Xinghe's mother, Xinghe was figuring out ways to take down the He Lan family. She had told the Shen family everything. After they heard about Project Galaxy, they were appropriately shocked. Finally, they decided to relay this news to the president because of the severity of the incident.

Of course, when the president knew, he too was shocked. Even though they had no idea what Project Galaxy was, from all the gathered information, it was a mysterious plan that could quite possibly endanger the lives of the entire planet. For the sake of everyone, the president stated his intention to cooperate fully with Xinghe's investigation. However, their main target was the He Lan family in Country R, if the president intervened, it could cause a real international crisis. That being the case, they had to rely on Xinghe, because Xinghe at least had some ways to investigate the He Lan family.

Her plan was simple, she was going to wait for the He Lan family to take action. Her birth origin had been announced, she believed the He Lan family must have been informed. They would not sit idle after getting the news.

Therefore, all she had to do was wait, wait for them to appear and wait for the opportunity to strike. To give them the opening they wanted, Xinghe spent all her day outside just wandering about.

It was only her and Ali. Ali drove her all over the city while Xinghe monitored their situation closely inside the car, waiting for their opponents to show themselves. However, they had done this for two straight days and they had found nothing.

“Xinghe, do you think the He Lan family will really send people to follow us?” Ali asked with uncertainty as she turned the steering wheel.

Xinghe, who sat in the back operating her laptop, answered, “They will after they hear about my family origin.”

“What if the party they send intends to harm you?” Ali asked with a shred of fear in her voice.

Xinghe smirked. “That also depends on whether they have that capability or not. Turn left at the junction ahead, the fish has taken the bait.”

Ali was shocked and immediately looked into the rear-view mirror. There was quite a group of cars behind them, it was hard for her to tell which was the anomalous one.

“Is the person really on our tail?” Ali tried to confirm.

Xinghe stared at the surveillance on her laptop and nodded.

“Then, you have to contact Mr. Xi immediately, we will make this a one-way trip for that person!” Ali said excitedly as she turned the steering wheel, and behind them, she saw a black car doing the same.

The car was inconspicuous and looked like any other car on the road. However, Xinghe had been watching it for a very long time and realized it had been tailing them for as long as her surveillance on it. Her intuition also told her the individual inside this car was suspicious!

Ali slowly drove them to a secluded part of the town and stopped in front of an orphanage. For the past two days, they

had been visiting orphanages. They planned to visit all the orphanages in City A, this was part of the bait.

Chapter 736: Tracking Expert

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This created the impression that she was looking for information at orphanages and that would definitely grind the other party's gears. In reality, she was putting out a bait by randomly visiting orphanages and it paid off handsomely!

Xinghe and Ali exited the car and entered the orphanage naturally. As they expected, the car tailing them also stopped. Exiting the car was a large man in a normal get-up that meant to make him look inconspicuous, he was Ah Bin, sent by He Lan Chang.

Ah Bin didn't follow them into the orphanage but walked towards a small restaurant next to it. He was a tracking expert, so he never let his victim notice his existence; he blended into the crowd perfectly like he was just a normal guy on a Monday stroll.

After he entered the restaurant, he took a corner seat by the window and used fluent Chinese to order three appetizers. Then, he pretended to relish the scenery when his complete focus was on the orphanage.

The appetizers were soon served, and Ah Bin started eating to keep up his pretense, but his eyes had never left the orphanage's entrance. Ali and Xinghe had been in the orphanage for a long time, they hadn't left even after Ah Bin finished his meal.

During that time, it was almost lunch and the patrons of the restaurant increased. The tables around him were all taken. On one table, two men in suits were chatting over alcohol, while on another table, a couple was arguing. The man seemed to have gotten too close to another woman and his girlfriend was grilling him. No matter how hard he tried to explain himself, his girlfriend was certain that he had cheated on her. Their argument got louder and louder.

The man, apparently ashamed, kept looking around as if afraid that they were being observed by others. He even tossed Ah

Bin helplessly looks several times. However, Ah Bin was uninterested in their business.

At the same time, the crowd out on the road had increased. A few schoolchildren were playing with an empty water bottle after school. One of them accidentally kicked the bottle under his car. He bent down to pull out the bottle and they continued their little game as they walked away.

Ah Bin put down his chopsticks and was deciding whether to abandon his post or not when Xinghe and Ali finally exited the orphanage. Ah Bin made sure they entered their car and had left before leaving the restaurant to go toward the orphanage.

He didn't plan to tail them anymore. The thing he needed to do then was to find out more from the orphanage, specifically what Xinghe was doing at the orphanage.

The result was disappointing. He realized they didn't do anything noteworthy at the orphanage, they merely came to make a donation.

When Ah Bin left the orphanage, naturally he couldn't spot Xinghe's car anymore. He planned to use another method to investigate Xinghe tomorrow, so he decided to retire for the day.

Ah Bin left in his car and returned to a villa that he had rented in the countryside. After he entered the living room, he pulled out his phone to report his daily findings to He Lan Chang. Not long after he finished that, his doorbell rang.

Ah Bin immediately prepared his pistol and sidled to the door cautiously. Through the electronic surveillance, he saw that it was an elderly man waiting outside. Ah Bin hesitated for a moment before letting his guard down and pulling open the door.

"Yes?" Before he could ask who the man was looking for, Ah Bin's face changed because a pistol was pointing right at his waist.

The elderly man straightened to his full height; he was almost as tall as Ah Bin.

Chapter 737: Failed from the Beginning

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The elderly man's dark eyes were sharp and cold, his lips curved into a mysterious smile. However, his voice that came out was surprisingly young. "Don't move, or I'll shoot."

At that moment, Ah Bin knew he had walked into a trap!

He was trying to figure out a way to fight back when three more men rushed into the room with guns pointing at him!

When Ah Bin saw their faces, his heart dropped because he had seen them before, at the restaurant next to the orphanage. They were the workers in suits and the man quarrelling with his girlfriend. They were all in disguise...

He had been found out from the very beginning!

When Ah Bin was detained, he couldn't believe he was discovered so early in his operation and was already captured!

"Who are you people?" Ah Bin asked in equal part shock and anger.

"You are investigating me, but you have no clue who we are?"

A woman's voice that came from the door answered him.

Xinghe and Mubai walked into the room, and behind them were Ali and a few other people. When Ah Bin saw them, he was baffled. "How did you know I was investigating you?"

He had hidden his tracks well, that day was the first day he tailed her so how could he have been found out so easily? He couldn't believe the reality that he was exposed so easily. Furthermore, when he returned, he didn't spot any cars following him, so how did they find him there?

This was all too unreal!

Xinghe smiled coolly. "Because I've been waiting for you."

"What do you mean by that?" Ah Bin was dumbfounded.

This time it was Mubai who answered him. His voice carried the presence and arrogance of a king, "The meaning's simple.

From the very beginning, this was a trap waiting for you people to walk into.”

“And you people didn’t disappoint. They sent you to investigate me,” Xinghe added.

Comprehension dawned for Ah Bin. They were purposely luring the He Lan family into investigating them. However, he still didn’t get one thing, how did they discover him and manage to follow him back to his hideout?

“Who told you about my mission?” Ah Bin asked with a deep frown.

Xinghe explained slowly, “No one did, but I noticed you through our surveillance, so we placed a tracker under your car.”

“What?” This was another shock for Ah Bin. Even those schoolchildren were part of the trap...

For some reason, Ah Bin felt like laughing. He thought he was so good, quietly cornering his prey, but all along, he was the prey!

This was probably the biggest failure of a mission he had ever been on in his life, and it failed from the very beginning! A failure that couldn’t be salvaged.

Ah Bin had a hard time accepting this truth and disbelief was plain on his face...

However, he couldn’t deny the reality especially when they tied him up.

“Search his body and every single corner of the room. Turn the house upside down, I want to see how much of the He Lan family’s criminal proof we can find,” Xinghe ordered and the group of men started to mobilize.

Ah Bin started to get anxious. There were quite a few pieces of He Lan family’s information on him, it was over if they were discovered!

However, he could do nothing as he watched his phone being taken away. He wanted to struggle but several guns were

pointing right at him; he didn't dare move abruptly. His luggage and his computer were all laid out in the open.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Bonus Chapter sponsored by the accumulation of Power Stones.

Chapter 738: No Secret

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Xinghe, this is his passport, he is from Country R,” Ali pulled from his luggage his passport and passed it to Xinghe.

Xinghe looked at it and her gaze swept over Ah Bin. “He Bin?”

He Bin answered darkly, “That’s right, I am from Country R, but what can that prove? I’m following because you’re rich, that’s all.”

Xinghe smiled lightly. Right then, the other men reported, “Mr. Xi, Miss Xia, his phone and computer are both coded, we can’t open them.”

He Bin felt confidence return to him. His phone and computer were locked with the most powerful code, it was a lock that normal computer experts wouldn’t be able to solve. As long as they couldn’t prove his connection to the He Lan family, he would shoulder all the blame.

However, He Bin soon found out how wrong he was.

“Give me the computer.” Xinghe didn’t ask him for the password but walked to the sofa and started operating on the computer that was passed to her. He Bin couldn’t help but worry witnessing the masterful way she dealt with his computer.

Ali noticed his worry and smiled smugly. “Did you think that code could solve your problems? Open your eyes wide and watch closely. Your little password is nothing but a paper tiger, not able to withstand a single blow!”

“Done,” Xinghe announced just as Ali finished her sentence!

Not only He Bin was shocked, even Ali was surprised. She ran to her side in disbelief. “You cracked it so fast!”

“That’s right.” Xinghe nodded and she already started to look through the computer.

Ali wheezed in bafflement. “Xinghe, you’re like a monster! You took down the code in less than a minute, how can you be

so fast?”

He Bin looked at them with utter disbelief. Xinghe explained, “The password he set was amateurish.”

He Bin was speechless. His password was amateurish? It sounded more like she was the one that was not normal.

“Stay away from my computer! I’m telling you, this is a violation of my privacy, I will definitely sue!” He Bin threatened nervously. Ali suddenly turned and launched a punch at his guts. He grunted in pain and glared viciously at her. However, Ali didn’t back down and glared right back at him. He Bin suddenly realized they were of the same mold. If anything, the woman before him seemed to possess a deeper and darker murderous air around her.

Ali smirked coldly. “You tailed us while possessing a firearm and you have the face to threaten to sue us. You should be thankful that we didn’t lodge a bullet in your head!”

“Tell us, why did the He Lan family send you to Hwa Xia?” Mubai demanded coldly.

He Bin knew he had no chance at an escape, so he opted for another tact. He pretended to know nothing. He smiled. “I don’t understand what any of you are talking about. Don’t think you can get any information out of me, I would rather die!”

Mubai smirked with derision. “That is no longer your choice. Since you’ve fallen into our hands, all your secrets will be exposed.”

He Bin straightened himself and laughed. “Then let’s see how you’re going to make me spill the information from my mouth.”

“We might not even want to believe the information that comes out of your mouth.” Xinghe’s voice suddenly rang out. She took his computer with her and walked towards him. She pointed the screen at him and asked, “Take a look at this, is it all correct?”

He Bin glanced at it out of curiosity and his face involuntarily darkened!

All the information about him was on full display, his birthday, information about his mother, childhood, and everything he had done since he was an adult...

Chapter 739: He Lan Chang's Son

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

In other words, anything that could be found on him was discovered!

Even his phone records with He Lan Chang was unearthed. Even the police needed plenty of time to accrue as much information as she managed to uncover, yet she needed such a short amount of time.

He Bin was stunned speechless. He looked at Xinghe with a gaping mouth like he was staring at a monster.

Xinghe noticed this and asked him in return, "Do you know why I could discover so many things about you so fast?"

Is it not because you are scarily good with computers?

"All of this I took from Country R's intelligence agency. I just wanted to try my luck there, but all your information was sitting there for me to take."

"That is impossible!" He Bin countered subconsciously. Country R's intelligence agency only monitored dangerous or important individuals. Why would they keep tabs on someone as insignificant as him?

They wouldn't have known he was He Lan Chang's son because his father wouldn't sell him out, because he had been absolutely loyal to him and exposing him was equal to exposing himself.

"I also thought that was plenty curious, but since you're He Lan Chang's son born out of wedlock, it all makes sense." Xinghe flipped through the page and it revealed all the information on He Bin. If the earlier page contained all his public information that could be revealed, then this page was all the darker side of his life.

There was not only information on his past criminal activities, but also his relationship to He Lan Chang. However, the most curious part was the information on his mother's death.

His mother died when he was still a child from a sudden illness. The information stated the main suspect at the time was He Lan Chang...

He Bin was confounded as he took in the news. The person who killed my mother was Father? How is that possible?

“Don’t try to fake this to get information out of me!” He Bin flared up suddenly. “Do you really think that I will fall for these kinds of cheap tricks? Don’t make me laugh!”

“But everything else on this is accurate, right?” Xinghe asked.

He Bin couldn’t deny that. Everything else on it was accurate, so his mother’s death had to be as well. His face was dark because he found himself starting to believe it, despite his conviction otherwise.

“Why would the intelligence agency record something like this...” he asked in disbelief, even he himself didn’t notice he was asking Xinghe, begging her for her help.

“He’s right, why would the intelligence agency have his information and in such detail?” Ali was confused as well.

Xinghe’s eyes shone brilliantly and explained, “If I’m not mistaken, the only explanation is that Country R’s president is collecting all of this information to guard against the He Lan family. Their cooperation is only surface level. He also wants to get rid of the He Lan family or else why would he have his men unearth so much information? He even used a very powerful encryption device to lock this information, but curiously enough, the password that secured your information is the same as the one that locks up Chui Ying’s information.”

He Bin was stunned. Naturally, he knew Chui Ying, she was the president’s niece. However, their information was locked up using the same password, what did that represent?

Xinghe looked at him and said, “Why don’t you give me another random person that currently works for the He Lan family and I will show you the same result. Their information will be locked behind the same password and it will contain many details as well.”

Chapter 740: Not His Son

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He Bin looked at her and he could find no words. He really didn't expect his president would be so guarded against the He Lan family. It was his assumption that the He Lan family and the Chui family were on the same boat...

"Now, do you still believe fully that He Lan Chang isn't really a suspect in your mother's death?" Xinghe asked clearly and this introduced another change on He Bin's face.

Xinghe's eyes that seemed to be able to see into people's hearts stared at him, and she said, "Your surname is not He Lan and there is a murderous aura around you; I believe your childhood must have been incredibly different to He Lan Qi's."

There was obvious shock in He Bin's eyes. Indeed, their experiences growing up were different, complete opposites one could say.

He Lan Qi was raised and primed as the next heir to the family. He was treated like a prince since he was young; he was given the best of everything; he was the He Lan family's young master by name and in reality.

However, he had a completely different upbringing. He was raised to become an assassin. He wasn't given any education other than how to kill and how to be a qualified assassin. He wasn't given any breaks, from his childhood, he could only remember his tough, and often cruel, training. In fact, He Lan Chang never once admitted that he was his son.

He told him he couldn't have the He Lan name because it would jeopardize his assassin identity. This way, even if he was captured, he wouldn't be linked back to the He Lan family. However, He Lan Chang would never hesitate to remind him that he was always a He Lan and he should put his family first.

Then again, he would never admit to the public that he was his son. The only time when he even conversed with his father

was about the missions that he sent him on. He Lan Chang was more like his officer than his father.

However, when He Lan Chang was with He Lan Qi, he would materialize into a kind and loving father.

He Bin used to assume this was because He Lan Chang couldn't accept him because he was born out of wedlock. Therefore, he pushed himself even harder, so that one day, he could touch He Lan Chang and they would finally be a real family.

Now that he thought about it... Perhaps He Lan Chang didn't even treat him as his son from the very beginning. If his mother was really murdered by He Lan Chang, then what were the chances that he would form any family relationship with him? He probably kept him around because he was a convenient tool.

He Bin knew that all this was the truth, but he refused to believe his own father would treat his mother and him like this.

"You're doing all of this to get information from me, I'm telling you again, I will not give up anything!" He Bin stressed once more, but it was hard to tell whether he was convincing Xinghe or himself.

Xinghe looked at him and said, "Don't worry, I won't force you to give up anything. I can find out more on my own. Men, take him away; keep him locked up and wait for my orders."

"Yes, Miss Xia." The few security officers moved to drag He Bin away.

After they left, Mubai immediately asked Xinghe, "What do you plan to do with him?"

Xinghe said with a smile, "Let him process this for a day then we'll let him go."

"Why?" Ali asked out of confusion.

Mubai raised his eyebrow because he read her thoughts. "You plan to let him confirm the authenticity of the news himself, right?"

“That’s right.” Xinghe nodded. “Just look at him, he will not admit the truth until it slaps him on his face. Furthermore, the enemy of our enemy is our friend, and he just might be our best ally.”

“Ally?” Ali was confused again. “But he is He Lan Chang’s son, will he betray him?”

“If He Lan Chang really murdered his mother, do you think he will continue working for the man?”

Chapter 741: Don't Leave Me...

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“I can see that this He Bin still has his own autonomy; he hasn't become a complete tool for the He Lan family, and most importantly, he seems to still care about his mother. And if that's true, then he will try his best to discover the truth.”

After he confirmed He Lan Chang was really related to his mother's death, he would stop working for them. He might not end up as their ally, but he wouldn't stand in their way.

As long as it could help Xinghe take down the He Lan family, she would not overlook it.

Furthermore, Xinghe understood He Lan Chang would definitely be suspicious if she just let him go just like that. According to their cruel personality, if they were in any way suspicious of He Bin, they would definitely act on it. He Bin would be in for a world of pain and Xinghe hoped it would be enough for him to wake up and see the truth.

Of course, Xinghe also reminded him that he would be betrayed. He, of course, refused to believe it, but she only meant to plant a seed, it depended on him what to do with the information.

He Bin was sent to jail. With the president behind her back, Xinghe had the power to do that.

At night, she managed to pull up more information, at least she managed to confirm it was true that Country R's president was planning to deal with the He Lan family. If he didn't, he wouldn't have collected so much information on the He Lan family. He was waiting for the perfect opportunity to destroy them. However, he didn't dare make any moves because the He Lan family was holding his weakness in their grasp.

“I believe we can feel out this president, if our goal is similar, we can choose to cooperate with him,” Xinghe told Mubai.

Mubai nodded. “It would be best if we can cooperate with him, it'll make dealing with the He Lan family easier. I'm just afraid he is not trustworthy.”

“That’s my concern as well, but we can test him first.”

“How?”

“I will personally go make contact with him. If he has the intention of working with us, he will then have to come to us.”

Mubai sighed. “You plan to return to Country R...”

Xinghe nodded. “I have to, if I don’t, there will be no progress.”

“When do you plan to go?” Mubai asked in a soft whisper and his gaze turned sad.

Xinghe hesitated. “In another two days, I’ll be leaving with He Bin.”

Mubai grabbed her hands and said firmly, “I’ll go with you, this time, it’ll be different from last time. You might come across danger this time.”

Xinghe shook her head. “What about your company? Furthermore, I will have people protecting me; I’ll be fine.”

“Even so, I have to go with you. If the post of your bodyguard is filled, then I will just be by your side.” Mubai’s lips curved into a smile. “Or you don’t wish to see me?”

She, of course, wouldn’t mind having him by her side, but she didn’t want to waste his time.

“Don’t overthink this, everything here will be fine. If anything, not being with you will only make me more worried,” Mubai said her concern and consoled softly.

Xinghe decided. “Okay, then let’s go together!”

Mubai’s face broke into a wide and attractive smile. He caressed the curve of her jaw and said softly, “You have to promise me we’ll always be like this, okay?”

Xinghe blinked curiously. Like what?

“Bring me with you no matter where you go and don’t let me go again...” Mubai suddenly leaned in and kissed her passionately on her lips.

...

After a discussion with the president, Xinghe planned to meet with Country R's president alongside with an ambassador. They even came up with the perfect reason to go to Country R, it was to deport He Bin.

At the same time, they would be sending Chui Ying home.

Of course, on paper, they wouldn't say they were deporting Chui Ying but escorting her back to her home country.

Chapter 742: Sending Them Back

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The Chui family was informed of the fact that Chui Ying had crossed the Shen family. The president personally notified them of this and in a very friendly manner, suggested having his men escort her back home. The Chui family knew this was a front to deport Chui Ying. They had no issue with this. Chui Ying was reluctant, but there was nothing she could do.

The reason for sending He Bin back was fixed as well. The official record stated that he was detained at the airport for acting suspiciously. He was very uncooperative during the investigation, so they had no choice but to deport him back to Country R. There was no mention of his connection to the He Lan family. This was to give He Lan Chang the impression that he was still in control.

Whether He Bin would come clean after he returned was his prerogative. Xinghe was not afraid that he would tell He Lan Chang everything, but she believed he would not do that, at least not so soon, because she had personally talked with him about it.

“We will not reveal the fact that you have been exposed to the He Lan family, so you can return to them without fear. Of course, if you want to come clean to He Lan Chang, it will be fine for us as well since we are planning to come after them eventually anyway. However, I advise you to think twice before doing that, because who knows, you might need to cooperate with us in the future,” Xinghe told him in a meaningful way.

He Bin’s mouth was stretched to a thin line. He did not say a word and his face was unreadable.

Xinghe did not stay to wait for his answer. She reminded him before she left, “One more thing, you have to be careful because hiding the truth from them will put you at risk. He Lan Chang will definitely get suspicious due to the fact that you got deported so soon. If he suspects you have turned

against him and sided with us, then he will not forgive you. Of course, that is your decision to make.”

“Are you unafraid that I will blab everything to them the moment I return?” He Bin suddenly asked in a whisper.

Xinghe smiled lightly. “Even if you did not tell them anything, they would have guessed as much. Now, our feud with them has been brought to the surface. Of course, I doubt they will come after me publicly, but on the other hand, I do not think they will ever consider assassinating me.”

He Bin then realized what kind of identity Xinghe carried on her. She was visiting Country R as Hwa Xia’s honored guest. If anything happened to her at Country R, it would become an international disaster. It would be even more difficult for harm to come to her at Hwa Xia. No matter how influential the He Lan family was, doing anything at Hwa Xia would be difficult, much less arranging an assassination.

No wonder she was so unafraid. Furthermore, this woman could hold her own against the He Lan family; she was cautious, capable and spirited. She was not one bit afraid of the He Lan family. For some reason, it cropped up in He Bin’s mind that perhaps it was the He Lan family’s misfortune that they came up against her.

“We have not arrived at Country R yet, so you still have time to think. It is your choice whether to choose to work with us or take a risk on your own. Think hard about it and give me an answer before we land.” Xinghe parted with this valuable advice.

In the end, He Bin’s answer was unchanged. He refused to cooperate with them. After all, He Lan Chang was his father. Until he made clear of everything, he would not betray him so easily. However, he was touched by the kindness that Xinghe had shown him. She did not sell him out to the He Lan family, and subconsciously, he did not want to do the same to her. Perhaps, he should do some of his own investigation first...

On the plane, other than He Bin, there was also Chui Ying.

The treatment between the two was completely different. Chui Ying was treated so nicely like she was a princess.

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

Releasing one chapter to test some stuff. The update for original is screwing up my back-end ☐

Chapter 743: Country R's President

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, she could not stand being in the same space as Xinghe. Therefore, she tried her hardest to make life difficult for everyone. One moment she would complain about the food, the next it would be the seat. If they could not satisfy her demands, she would not hesitate to scold the nearest attendant. The flight attendants and chefs on the plane could not stand her anymore, so they all went to seek help from Xinghe and Mubai.

After Ali heard their cries for help, she was incensed, "This woman is really something else, does she really think she is a princess? Xinghe, let's just ignore her and pretend she does not exist."

Xinghe smiled thinly. "How can we do that? She is, after all, our honored guest. How about this, since she is not satisfied with any of our service, then save her the trouble of having to suffer any of that? Stay away from her and do not go to anger her, I believe Miss Chui will be happier that way."

Ali understood what Xinghe meant immediately. She ordered the people, "You heard Miss Xia, right? Leave her be to save her the heartburn. I am sure you all know what to do now!"

"Yes." The air attendants and chefs understood perfectly. Xinghe was telling them to ignore Chui Ying. This was perfect because they were done dealing with the b*tch anyway!

For the rest of the flight, no one came to disturb Chui Ying. She asked for water, but no one came, she then asked for food and still there was no reply. No matter what she asked for, no one seemed to hear her.

This made her extremely angry; she tried to scold Xinghe multiple times for this but every time she was stopped at the door by the bodyguards. No matter what kind of tantrum she threw, Xinghe ignored her. She was not afraid of her unique identity.

Chui Ying nursed a stomach of fire on the plane. The first thing she would do after they landed was complain about

Xinghe to her president uncle. Xinghe predicted she would do something like that, if anything, that was what she wished Chui Ying would do because she wanted to see how the president would react.

...

Country R's president, Chui Qian, personally invited them to a banquet. He looked like an easy-going person, but since he had the capability to be the president, there must be something interesting about him hidden behind his warm smile.

During the dinner, he played the role of the host perfectly. He did not say a word about Chui Ying's complaints, he even apologized to Xinghe. "My niece is a bit too young and she has created some trouble during her visit to Hwa Xia. I would like to apologize on her behalf."

Xinghe smiled lightly. "President Chui is taking this too seriously, we did not take Miss Chui's offense to heart or else we would not have escorted Miss Chui back personally."

Xinghe's words were sharp, since she openly stated Chui Ying's actions as an offense. This could be read as an offense to the president.

However, Chui Qian did not show any sign of anger. He laughed and said, "I can see why Miss Xia is the Shen family's descendent by the way you carry yourself. Also, I heard Miss Xia's mother spent her childhood at one of Country R's orphanage?"

"President Chui heard right. According to our investigation, she was adopted by the He Lan family's orphanage. Earlier, I came to the country to search for her, and the He Lan family's young master, He Lan Qi offered his best help, but the search turned up nothing. This time we returned to Country R to continue the search. We will not give up until we find her," Xinghe looked into his eyes and stated confidently.

Chui Qian's eyes shone slightly, and he looked deeper at Xinghe. "Miss Xia's conviction sure is touching to witness. Do not worry because you will have my full support for your search. I am sure with everyone's cooperation, we will be able

to find your mother soon and you will have a complete family.”

“Thank you, Mr. President. Also, we escorted another one of your countryman back with us, his name is He Bin.”

Chapter 744: His Thoughts

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“We found his actions to be rather suspicious because he seems to purposely come after us. I wonder if President Chui could look into him further to check whether he has any hidden intentions,” Xinghe requested directly.

Chui Qian’s expression darkened by several shades before nodding easily. “Naturally, that will not be a problem! Since he is a suspicious character, then we will investigate him thoroughly and will report back to all of you when we have come up with a proper answer.”

“Mr. President, thank you again. This time, you have helped us, so if you need our help in the future, we will repay the kindness without hesitation,” Xinghe offered with a meaningful smile. Chui Qian was taken aback, and the way he looked at them turned a little more complicated.

...

After the banquet was over, Xinghe and Mubai rejected the offer to stay at the villa Chui Qian arranged for them and opted to stay at the hotel. When they reached the hotel, Xinghe saw that Ee Chen and the rest were already there.

Ali had contacted them when she landed to ask them to gather at the hotel. All this while, Ee Chen’s group had been busy observing the He Lan family in Country R.

Xinghe asked them directly, “How is everything?”

Ee Chen answered solemnly, “The incident regarding Angel Orphanage has been suppressed. The He Lan family found a few scapegoats, and since there were few reports in the media, it has basically blown over.”

Sam grumbled with dissatisfaction, “That incident barely caused any damage to them.”

“And no one really rose to challenge them,” Cairn added.

Xinghe nodded. “I expected as much. This kind of small incident would not have affected them seriously. However, it is

not true that no one has reared their head to target the He Lan family.”

“What do you mean by that?” Ee Chen asked in confusion.

Xinghe did not answer but pulled over her laptop. Very soon, she hacked into Country R’s intelligence agency and pulled out up the information gathered on the He Lan family. There were files on He Lan Chang and He Lan Qi as well. However, there was little information on them, most of the information could be found on the internet. It was mostly unimportant.

However, there was a new entry, it was about the Angel Orphanage incident. When they saw this, Ee Chen’s group was befuddled.

Only Ali got it. “Xinghe, it looks like Country R’s president does have the intention to go after them!”

Xinghe nodded. “Yes, now we can finally confirm that.”

Or else, he would not have recorded everything that had happened with the He Lan family. He was definitely lying in wait, waiting for the chance to remove them.

“What is really happening? How did you guys conclude that Country R’s president has the intention of going after the He Lan family?” Ee Chen asked with a confused frown. Xinghe then explained everything to them from beginning to end. They were appropriately shocked when they heard the news.

They did not expect Xinghe’s thoughts would be so scary. She went to investigate Chui Ying but had managed to unearth so many secrets. Even though it seemed easy on paper to do all this, if she had not started by investigating Chui Ying, they would not have gotten where they were. The most crucial point was that none of them would have thought to use Chui Ying as an opening and they would not have been able to discover so much encrypted information.

Xinghe not only had the necessary deductive skills but also the capability, or else the progress would not have been so successful.

Even He Bin’s capture was not something that could be done by anyone. Her plan was intricate, and she did not let any

opportunity slip. She was never overconfident or careless and it was because of all this that she managed to uncover so many secrets.

Chapter 745: Active Attack

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Ee Chen suddenly felt so useless. He had conducted such a long investigation in Country R and found nothing. In comparison, Xinghe had managed to come up with so much information in such a short amount of time. He was glad that he asked to be her student.

At the same time, Ee Chan was happy. “Since the Chui family has the intention to go after the He Lan family, does this not mean we can try to reach out to them for cooperation?”

If they had President Chui’s support, things could be a lot easier.

Xinghe shook her head. “Not yet, for now I can only be certain that the president thinks that way, but I cannot say the same for the rest of the Chui family.”

“In other words, the president might not represent the whole Chui family?” Sam asked.

“That is possible so let’s not be too optimistic. In any case, I will continue to investigate. You guys must be tired, you can go and rest now.”

“Okay, then we will take our leave, you two had better rest early as well.” Ali nodded understandingly. She then ushered the rest of them out of the room, leaving behind only Xinghe and Mubai.

“Do you plan to contact Chui Qian?” Mubai asked Xinghe in a low voice.

He truly knew her well and that was indeed the thought on her mind. She nodded. “Yes, I plan to be active for once to see what his reaction will be. It will be best if he is willing to cooperate with us.”

Mubai supported her. “That is not a bad idea, at a time like this, it is better to be the active party. Contact him but do not be too obvious about it.”

“I know.” Xinghe took out her phone to call the president’s secretary. Little did she know that Chui Qian was considering the same thing. The words Xinghe told her during the banquet had been stuck in his head. Chui Qian was brilliant enough to understand what she was hinting at. Is it possible that she has noticed the He Lan family’s problems?

Just as Chui Qian was considering this, his secretary knocked politely on his door and opened it to inform him, “Mr. President, there is a call for you. It is from a Miss Xia from Hwa Xia.”

Chui Qian was startled. He immediately had his secretary pass him the call. “Hello, Miss Xia?”

“Mr. President, I am sorry to disturb you so late in the night, but I wonder if I can have a few minutes of your time? It is about something important,” Xinghe asked in a normal tone.

Chui Qian understood she wanted to discuss something important, so he immediately waved his secretary away. Then, he said seriously, “Miss Xia, please continue.”

Xinghe did not play any games with him and came straight out with it. “Mr. President, we have come across some problems in the search for my mother and it has to do with the He Lan family. I am just wondering what your thoughts on this particular family are.”

“There are not many thoughts on them, however, every large family has a side that is hidden away from the public,” Chui Qian replied in a vague manner, but his answer still hinted at something.

Xinghe picked up the stuff that was left unsaid. She then continued, “If you are also unsatisfied with them, we can offer a chance at a cooperation. Of course, the terms of cooperation are completely up to you. Do not worry, because unlike a certain party, we are reliable partners.”

Chui Qian was really shocked this time!

They had found out the issue with the He Lan family and knew they were in his crosshairs, but how did they find out?

Chui Qian narrowed his eyes. “Miss Xia seems to know me very well.”

“Mr. President, it is not as well as you think. We heard something and got suspicious and wanted to find out more,” Xinghe said calmly, not bringing up the fact that she had already hacked into the intelligence agency.

However, Chui Qian was still guarded. “Are you not afraid your suspicion is wrong?”

Chapter 746: Her Biggest Bet

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Since we have no other choices, why not take a giant bet? Of course, if our suspicion is wrong, then we are willing to face the consequences,” Xinghe said spiritedly and won the president over.

If Chui Qian did not have confidence in her before, he was impressed by her then. This was because not one woman dared to be so openly confident in front of him. The way she carried herself was enough to make anyone impressed.

“Miss Xia truly is one of a kind, but how do you plan to make me believe you? Furthermore, I cannot promise you anything, so how can you even believe me?”

Xinghe laughed weakly. “It is pointless doubting your ally. Furthermore, I have already said, I am not afraid of failure. Regarding whether you can place your trust in us, feel free to keep watch over our actions. You can decide whether to continue with the cooperation or not after some more consideration. Then, I will not disturb your rest anymore, good night.”

Xinghe hung up after that. She turned to see a curious expression on Mubai. He seemed like he had something he wanted to say.

“What?” Xinghe asked curiously, “What’s on your mind?”

Mubai laughed heartily. “I just want to say you are really brave. Are you not afraid that Chui Qian and the He Lan family are in cahoots and you have just exposed yourself? Are you not afraid that the He Lan family will send some assassins after you?”

Xinghe nodded. “Truth be told, I am afraid.”

The man raised his brow. “Then how can you dare to be so direct?”

Xinghe’s clear eyes looked at him and said, “How else was I going to get any opportunity if I wasn’t so direct? I do not want to wait anymore. Be it failure or success, as long as there

is some progress, I will be satisfied because it is by introducing changes into the game in which we will be able to find a new opening and move on.”

Mubai pressed on. “What if there is no new opening?”

Xinghe laughed. “How can that be possible? Even if there is no new opening here, as long as I do not lose my life in this country, there are plenty of things I can do after we return to Hwa Xia.”

Mubai could not help but laugh along with her. He tousled her hair and patted her lightly. “You are right, we have plenty of retreat routes, so nothing will happen to you, do whatever you like, raise as big a storm as you want.”

As long as he was alive, he would not allow anything bad to befall her. Xinghe saw his thoughts but she did not tell him that as long as she was alive, she would not let anything happen to him as well.

Furthermore, she never started a war that she could not win. She dared to be so open and direct because she had prepared a lot. One of her biggest trump cards was He Bin.

However, it was also her biggest risk because He Bin was still a variable she could not control. Xinghe did not have time to slow down, after she contacted Chui Qian, she quickly moved to follow up on He Bin.

After they arrived at the airport, He Bin was taken away by Country R’s law enforcement. However, after some digging, she realized he was mysteriously released and was escorted away by a mysterious party. Needless to say, this mysterious party was the He Lan family.

The moment He Bin got into the car, the driver asked him in a whisper, “Are you alright?”

“I am fine,” He Bin answered softly.

The driver continued, “The old master was worried about you, so he had me come to personally fetch you. He wanted me to tell you to not worry, he will settle everything.”

He Bin was surprised; this was the first time he had felt He Lan Chang's concern. He thought his father would never care about him in his life...

Instantly, He Bin sighed in relief because he made the right choice. He sided with the He Lan family and did not sell them out.

Chapter 747: Chose Honesty

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Bring me to see the old master now,” he said in a low growl. He could not wait to tell his father everything.

“Old Master happens to want to see you, I will take you to him now.”

After the driver answered, he started the car. Very soon, He Bin was brought to He Lan Villa...

He Lan Chang waited for him in the living room. When he saw him, He Bin started by apologizing. “I am sorry for failing the mission. I have failed your expectation.”

This was the first time he had failed his mission, and he failed it so gloriously. He did not have the courage to face his father.

He Lan Chang did not get angry. He nodded and said nicely, “Take a seat first and tell me everything, do not leave out any details.”

“Yes.” He Bin sat across his father and a maid immediately brought him a glass of his favorite black tea. Every time He Bin returned from his mission and was going through the report with He Lan Chang, his father would have someone prepare him a glass of black tea for He Bin. The fact that there was a glass waiting for him even though he had failed his mission touched He Bin.

That broke down his defenses and he planned to tell his father everything.

“The mission failed because the other party knew from the beginning that we were going to investigate her, so she has set up a defensive parameter waiting for us to take action. Therefore, when I arrived, I was already discovered or else this mission would not have failed so soon,” He Bin reported in a pained voice.

He Lan Chang narrowed his eyes. “You mean they knew it was us who sent you to them?”

He Bin nodded after a very short hesitation. “Yes, they seemed to have known everything...”

“What is this everything that you talk about?” He Lan Chang’s voice dropped for a few degrees, and there was an additional pressure in it.

“They knew that we are investigating her and knew about... my identity.”

“They knew you are my son?” He Lan Chang asked directly.

He Bin nodded weakly. There was an iciness that flashed in He Lan Chang’s eyes, but he continued the questioning calmly. “How did they find out about that?”

After all, there were not many who knew about the fact that he had a bastard son. There was no way of telling that just from observation alone, therefore, it was indeed curious that Xia Xinghe would know that.

He Bin wanted to explain but he suddenly remembered the suspicion surrounding his mother’s death that was recorded in the intelligence agency’s files. He snuck a look at He Lan Chang and he really wanted to ask whether it was him who killed his mother.

However, he could not bring himself to ask that question. He chose to be honest with his father. “She found that out from the country’s intelligence agency. There is a record that I am your son in the agency.”

This time it was He Lan Chang who was taken aback. “You said the intelligence agency?”

“Yes, Country R’s intelligence agency. I have no idea why there is such a record there, but they have found that out.”

He Lan Chang’s face immediately darkened. “Could it be that the two country’s presidents are cooperating in the dark?”

He Bin was shocked because he found this hypothesis believable as well. He was wondering why that Xia Xinghe was so capable, and if Country R’s president was feeding her information, then everything made sense. Perhaps the two countries had formed an alliance to take care of them.

He Bin started to get antsy. “Have they really started cooperating? But isn’t the Chui family standing on our side?”
“What else did they know?” He Lan Chang did not answer but posed his own question. There was a severity in his eyes.

Chapter 748: Suspicious

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Compelled by his subconscious, He Bin shook his head. “That is all...”

He had said everything he was obliged to, the things that he should not say he did not dare say.

He Lan Chang stared daggers at him and pressed, “Is that really everything? Think about it carefully.”

“That is really everything!”

“Since they know about your real identity, why would they let you come back just like that? And that is not what they said on your official deportation papers as well.”

He Bin opened his mouth, but no words came out. I cannot possibly reveal there is information regarding father’s involvement in mother’s death, can I? I definitely cannot say it is because of Xia Xinghe’s plans to woo me to her side that she allowed me to go so easily.

He Bin’s first reaction was evasion. He was afraid that if he revealed all these things, his relationship with his family would be soured.

“I have no idea why they decided to do so, perhaps it was because they did not want me to tell you the truth that they went against the grain and let me go. They thought I would be afraid that my identity would be exposed so I would not dare to tell you the truth.” He Bin lowered his gaze and came up with a barely believable reason.

To his surprise, He Lan Chang believed it. “Perhaps. But no matter their intention, it is a good thing that you have returned safely. You must be tired already, go and rest. Leave the rest to me.”

“Yes!” He Bin stood up and prepared to leave.

He Lan Chang called him back. “Finish this tea, I purposely had them brew it for you.”

“Yes.” He Bin took up the glass and finished it with one gulp. The tea warmed his stomach and his heart. There was even a spring in his step when he left. Before returning, he was afraid that he would be scolded because he had failed his mission, but that did not happen. His father did not fault him in any way and that really did touch He Bin.

His father had always been a cold, unapproachable figure to He Bin, but after today’s ordeal, his impression of him had improved a lot. Perhaps He Lan Chang did treat him as a son, but he had difficulty expressing it...

After He Bin left with these happy thoughts, He Lan Qi walked in.

He Lan Chang heard his footsteps and asked pointedly, “What do you think about what he said?”

“Father, I think there is serious problem!” He Lan Qi said with a frown but there was deep conviction in his voice.

He Lan Chang asked, “Where is the problem?”

He Lan Qi sat down and scoffed, “He is obviously lying to us. It is impossible for the fact that he is your bastard son to be recorded in the intelligence agency; the Chui family are our people, so they would not do something like this. Therefore, he must have revealed this secret himself.”

He Lan Chang narrowed his eyes dangerously. “I suspected as much, but why would he do that?”

“Why else? He is planning to betray us. Perhaps he has already formed a cooperative relationship with the Shen family, why else will they let him come back so easily? Furthermore, if they have found out about his real identity, why did they not come to us directly to demand an explanation? Don’t you think that is too suspicious? And do not get me started on his pitiable excuse, if Shen family is really afraid that he will blab everything to us, then they could have locked him up. In any case, it is indeed too suspicious that he returned so safely and easily after being discovered.”

He Lan Chang was slowly convinced by He Lan Qi’s analysis. It was only if He Bin had colluded with Xia Xinghe that he

would be let go so easily.

“So, is the reason he came clean to us about everything to buy our trust?” He Lan Chang asked with lethal intention.

He Lan Qi nodded and replied with a chilling smirk, “It has to be. Perhaps, he believed that only by telling us some degree of truth would he be able to fool us. And I dare say the reason he returned is he plans to sabotage us from within while the Shen family come for us from without.”

Chapter 749: A Dog

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Damn! He is my son, how dare he betray us?” He Lan Chang roared angrily. He was almost fully convinced by He Lan Qi’s analysis.

He Lan Qi smirked chillingly. “Father, I warned you about this earlier. We have never treated him well and he is not admitted as part of the family, so how could he not resent us in some way? Do not forget that he is an assassin, do you really expect loyalty from him? Killing us and then take over everything is not outside of the realm of possibility.”

He Lan Chang’s face was dark, and a flash of bloodthirsty cruelty flickered across his eyes. “He wants to take over the family? He thinks too highly of himself! So what if he is an assassin? At the end of the day, he is nothing more than a dog that I have decided to keep out of mercy! When the dog bites the hand that feeds it, it is time to put him down! Damn this traitor, he must be punished.”

“Do you want me to get him to confess his sins?” He Lan Qi immediately suggested.

He Lan Chang nodded without giving it much thought. “Okay, I will leave this to you.”

“Okay!” He Lan Qi promised excitedly, and his eyes were practically glowing. He Bin, you have finally fallen into my hands, I will definitely make you regret ever being born in this world! You plan to contest my claim to the family? Alas, you will not be alive to do that!

He Lan Qi had always been cautious about He Bin, afraid that he would one day launch a counter to claim everything that naturally belonged to him. Therefore, when He Lan Qi was given this chance, how could he give it up?

Almost immediately, he brought his men to deal with He Bin.

He Bin had just returned to his room and was ready to lie down for the day when he heard someone knock on his door.

With a frown, he walked to open the door. What greeted him was the cold barrel of a pistol!

It was pointed right at his skull!

Thanks to his training, He Bin subconsciously rolled out of the way, but his opponent was fast as well!

The gunshot was smothered by a silencer and the force sent He Bin flying before landing with a thump on the floor. There was a bloody hole on his shoulder. He gripped his shoulder from pain, but his face was filled with shock and consternation.

Glaring at He Lan Qi who sauntered in with a pistol in his hand, He Bin demanded, “What are you doing?”

He Lan Qi pointed the pistol at his half-brother and smiled fiendishly. “What am I doing? Of course, I am exacting father’s order to punish you.”

“Punish me?” He Bin was shocked. What punishment? Is it because of the failed mission?

“You have collaborated with the Shen family, right? He Bin, you have betrayed the He Lan family, do you think you are able to escape our detection? Unfortunately, we have seen through your lies easily, and thus, it is time for you to pay! Men, detain him and throw him into the underground jail!”

“Yes, sir!” The security immediately rushed forward to detain He Bin.

He Bin struggled angrily. “I did not betray Father, it is impossible for me to betray him! I demand to see Father, I did not betray...”

He Bin swallowed the rest of his sentence because a punch was lobbed at his stomach. His assailant was none other than He Lan Qi. He put his whole body behind this punch; it almost brought up the black tea He Bin drank earlier.

He Lan Qi glared at him like a vicious scorpion and made sure to spit every word into his face. “Who are you to call him Father? Understand that you are nothing more than a dog that we raised!”

Chapter 750: Too Late for Regret

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Do you really think you are the He Lan family’s young master? To tell you the truth, Father has never treated you as his son before, you are nothing but a dog he raised out of a moment of compassion! And now, he wanted to have you put down, so you already have no right to live! This is what you get for betraying us!”

He Bin widened his eyes in shock. “What did you say? It is him that...”

“That’s right, it was Father that signed your death sentence because of your betrayal. However, do not worry because I will definitely keep you alive to let you understand what the meaning of torture is...” He Lan Qi laughed happily and wickedly but He Bin’s face was a sheet of white paper; his world was crumbling. He really did not expect his father, who he trusted so implicitly, who he was willing to believe he had nothing to do with his mother’s death, would treat him thusly.

He had told them everything honestly, but they still doubted him. They did not even give him any chance to explain himself. They condemned him so easily without even wanting to hear his side of the story.

So, I am really nothing but a dog to him... So many years I have slaved away to win his affection and he thought I am just a dog barking to get his attention.

He Bin hated himself then, hated himself for not heeding Xinghe’s advice. She had told him openly, this would be his ending, but he stubbornly closed himself to the truth. He Lan Chang was his biological father; he would not treat him so cruelly. However, reality gave him a sound slap.

He Bin had worked for years under He Lan Chang; he should have known how heartless his father could be, so how could he not see the reality that was right in front of his face?

Even an outsider like Xinghe could see the reality that was facing him. He Bin was blinded by his own loyalty and faith;

he had no one but himself to blame for his end. However, it was too late for regrets...

Because He Lan Qi would not let him go easily, he would torture him until death. He Bin had surrendered to his fate, he would not see the light of day again.

...

Xinghe had been following He Bin's situation. Ever since he left the airport, she had been tracking him using the road surveillance. Even after he was brought into He Lan villa, her surveillance had not stopped.

The He Lan family did not have many surveillance cameras, but they were complete, they were used to prevent outsiders from breaching into their family grounds. Even though Xinghe was not inside the villa personally, through the cameras she could see every corner of the house clearly.

Therefore, not long ago, she saw He Bin leave the main mansion and walk towards another smaller mansion that was to the side of the compound. Later, she saw He Lan Qi take a group of men towards He Bin's room...

Finally, she saw a bloodied He Bin being carried out of his room and whisked away to a basement of a building that was hidden from view.

"He Lan Chang did come after him after all," Mubai, who was beside her, observed.

Xinghe nodded. "That is to be expected. The fact that I allowed him to return unscathed must have raised some red flags for He Lan Chang. However, I expected his suspicion to escalate over time and I did not expect him to act so quickly."

"The He Lan family is one paranoid family, even Chui Qian could not find any dirt on them, this goes to show how careful and suspicious they are. Only by being paranoid can they manage to hold up such a pristine appearance to the public," Mubai analyzed clear-headedly.

Xinghe nodded in agreement because she also had that personality in her. She was always careful, so she could understand He Lan Chang in some ways. However, there was

a key difference between them. Unlike He Lan Chang, Xinghe was never unreasonably cruel.

Chapter 751: Save the Man

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

It took a special kind of heartless to come after your own flesh and blood. Xinghe had seen that streak in He Lan Chang and thus had predicted a bad ending for He Bin.

Unfortunately, He Bin refused to heed her warning. However, Xinghe did wonder what He Bin had reported to He Lan Chang that managed to arouse his suspicion so soon. Everything happened with such expedience that Xinghe had a hard time confirming whether he was still alive or not.

Xinghe could not afford to have him die on her because she could lose an important chess piece in her effort to topple the He Lan family. Therefore, Xinghe had to launch a quick rescue mission to ensure that he was still alive.

“Let’s begin the mission tonight!” Xinghe announced out of nowhere.

However, Mubai understood her immediately. “You plan to save him?”

“Yes, it is not yet time for him to die yet. His death will mean a loss of many opportunities for us, so no matter the risk, we have to save him.”

“What if he remains indisposed to us after we save him?”

Xinghe smiled chillingly. “If he decides to be so stupidly filial, then I will admit my mistake in placing my faith in the wrong guy. Naturally, in that case, there is no reason for us to keep him anymore!”

Mubai liked this kind of Xinghe, one who was ruthless and would not be blinded by charity and kindness.

“Okay, we will begin the operation tonight,” he added supportively. Xinghe’s rescue plan was actually very simple and low risk because she could edit the surveillance inside the He Lan family’s residence as she wished. Furthermore, this was not the first rescue mission for Sam’s group. He Lan Villa was child’s play compared to the high security prison they’d sprung Charlie out of.

With perfect coordination from both sides, they successfully saved He Bin. Another crucial reason for such a success was that He Lan family did not expect anyone would come to He Bin's aid, so there was lax security in the prison that housed him. Everyone was still asleep when He Bin was rescued from the villa.

Xinghe expected some injuries on him but she never expected it would be so serious. The bullet wound on his body aside, his two legs were broken, and there were numerous whiplashes on his body.

He Lan Qi definitely did not hold back. The fact that He Bin survived such an interrogation was a miracle in and of itself. However, he did look like he was perishing.

The group of medics Mubai brought along just in case certainly proved their usefulness. They gave He Bin a rudimentary bandage to temporarily stop his conditions from worsening. However, if he would survive the ordeal depended on the man's physical attributes and survival instincts.

Xinghe had faith that He Bin would survive because it would have been such a waste for him to die just like that.

After a night of emergency operations, He Bin finally gained consciousness the next morning. When he opened his eyes and saw the snowy white ceiling, He Bin thought he was sleeping. What is happening? Have I died?

Suddenly, a clear and melodious female voice popped up beside him.

“You're up?”

He Bin turned his head with much effort and saw Xinghe, Mubai, and a few others stood by his bedside. His eyes watered slightly and croaked, “You people... saved me?”

“That's right, you are still alive, it is truly a miracle,” Xinghe said nonchalantly.

Sam purposely added to scare him, “However, you were so close to death's embrace. This did come as a surprise to us. We didn't expect you would have suffered such severe injuries.

Isn't He Lan Chang your father, how can he be so cruel towards you?"

The mention of He Lan Chang made He Bin tense his body and a deep, dark hatred boiled in his eyes. Yesterday, during the torture session, he had confirmed with He Lan Qi that it was them who killed his mother.

They realized her existence as the outside woman would ruin their family's reputation, therefore, she had to be removed!

Chapter 752: Revenge

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He Bin finally realized how heartless He Lan Chang was. He would not hesitate to take out anything that stood in the way of his profit. His mother and now himself were also his victims...

Simply because of a betrayal suspicion he was going to kill him. There was no investigation, he would rather kill an innocent than leave any suspicion. He Lan Chang's cruelty had reached an incredible level. The loyalty He Bin still had for the He Lan family was completely extricated during the torture session!

He traded his many years of service for such an ending. He lamented his stupidity for treating and respecting He Lan Chang as his father for all those years!

This man that was worse than an animal was never good enough to be his father. He Bin swore absolute revenge on them, to make them pay for what they did to him and his mother.

The vengeance in He Bin's eyes deepened. Suddenly, Xinghe asked, "Do you want your revenge?"

He Bin was taken aback. He whipped his head to look at her and promised vehemently, "Yes, I do! I am willing to do anything to take my revenge. You will have my full cooperation!"

Xinghe nodded. "Perfect, I am glad that you finally see the truth. Do not worry, revenge will definitely be yours if you choose to work with us."

"But what use am I to you now that I am a cripple..." He Bin said with hatred. His legs were broken by He Lan Qi, he could not even move a muscle from his lower body, he would probably spend the rest of his life in bed.

"Do not worry, I promise that you will stand again in time. Plus, we do not need you to do anything physical, we only need you to tell us everything you know," Mubai said in a low voice.

He Bin was taken aback again. He sighed. “But I do not know much about the family business. They would not tell me anything before sending me on those missions... Of course, I could expose them on those criminal deeds that they had me do for them.”

“That is not what we want,” Xinghe replied softly.

He Bin was confused. “In that case, what is your plan?”

Xinghe explained everything to him since he was now their ally, “The He Lan family is a family of secrets. What we need from you is to help us get to the bottom of those secrets. Only by understanding those secrets can we expose them and destroy them in one fell sweep, or else we will just be tipping our hand to them. Furthermore, do you really think we can bring them down with those deeds that they had you do?”

“...” It is indeed impossible. He Lan Chang is too cunning; he must have some ways to get out of the blame, if anything, he will push them on me instead. Furthermore, the president and the Chui family are their people, they will help him cover it up... wait a minute, the Chui family!

He Bin said excitedly, “The Chui family is part of the system, He Lan Chang practically raised them himself! Many of Chui Qian’s decisions have to go through consultation with He Lan Chang, if this relationship is exposed, it will definitely ruin them!”

“Do you have any evidence of their collusion?” Xinghe asked.

He Bin said directly, “Am I not the best evidence? I know many of their secret meetings and know the deals that they have forged with each other. Put me on the witness stand and I will bring them down!”

“Wonderful, tell us everything you know now, and we will record it,” Xinghe came to a decision on the spot but not before calming He Bin. “Do not worry, we will not actually broadcast the recording, at least, not until we can ensure your safety!”

He Bin was compelled by his hatred to blurt out those words earlier, but now that he had calmed down and thought about it,

if he presented himself as the witness, he would also be roped into the whole mess.

Chapter 753: Eye of the Storm

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe did not have to volunteer that piece of information, but she not only did but also promised him protection. This touched He Bin...

At the same time, this improved his trust in her, and he believed that she was a woman of her words. Therefore, He Bin kept no secrets and told her everything he knew...

He Bin's testimony was very useful. His revelation would definitely be enough to shake the Chui family and the He Lan family's positions. There was no need for ironclad evidence for something as serious as collusion. As long as there was a witness, it was enough to mobilize the whole country into protests and resistance. No matter how powerful the Chui family and the He Lan family were, they were unable to face the entire nation.

Furthermore, there was the democrats waiting for them to make a mistake, to pull them down. Therefore, He Bin's testimony was immensely valuable. In fact, he, as a witness, was crucial as well, therefore Xinghe's group had to ensure his physical safety from then on.

While Xinghe was recording He Bin's testimony, He Lan Chang finally discovered He Bin had disappeared. He had been rescued by someone!

How someone could have snuck into He Lan Villa and saved He Bin without tipping off anyone in the compound? This completely enraged He Lan Chang!

The logical conclusion was the party who saved He Bin belonged to Xia Xinghe. However, how did they manage to infiltrate He Lan villa without leaving any trace on the surveillance?

He Lan Chang soon came to the answer, they must have tweaked the surveillance!

He was surprised by Xinghe's capability; he hadn't thought she would be able to hack the best security system in the

country. Now that he thought about it, he was certain she had been watching them all along. These thoughts made He Lan Chang shiver involuntarily.

He immediately ordered to have all the security cameras in He Lan villa removed and increase the guard number. Then, he ordered Chui Qian to start investigating Xia Xinghe to find out whether it was her party who saved He Bin.

If it was, then Chui Qian was ordered to eliminate He Bin on sight! He could not allow this hidden threat to survive anymore. He was also further convinced of the fact that He Bin had betrayed him. Little did he know it was because of his suspicions that caused the betrayal.

On the other hand, He Lan Chang had some reserved suspicions about Chui Qian, but his logical side told him that it was all a misdirection by He Bin. He had Chui Qian under his fingertips and they shared a linked relationship, hurting one equaled to harming another. Therefore, He Lan Chang preferred to believe that Chui Qian had not contacted the Shen family behind his back.

However, that did not mean that He Lan Chang was willing to overlook this suspicion. His latest order was also a test. If Chui Qian could find He Bin and remove him, then He Lan Chang would believe he had not betrayed them, however, if he could not manage something as simple as that, then He Lan Chang would have to reconsider his loyalty.

Chui Qian, who received the order, was stuck between a rock and a hard place. Xinghe had extended him an olive branch and she had the whole Hwa Xia supporting her; he really did not want to miss the opportunity to make such a powerful ally. However, he understood if he did not follow He Lan Chang's order, he could not guarantee that his life would still be safe.

Caught in the conundrum, Chui Qian really did not know how to decide. He had no idea whether he should continue silencing his conscience and work for He Lan Chang or choose to cooperate with Xinghe and obtain absolute freedom. Either choice came with a great risk. One wrong step and he would be ruined.

Therefore, Chui Qian had decided to start the search while deciding what to do next. However, right then, a video suddenly surfaced online!

The video once again exposed the He Lan family and pushed them right back into the storm of public opinion.

Chapter 754: Arrest He Lan Qi

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

No, to be precise, what it did was push He Lan Qi into the public eye. The video was short and was shot at He Lan Villa. It showed He Lan Qi with a few of the security, dragging a bloodied He Bin from one mansion to another. This was the video captured by Xinghe earlier and she chose to release it online. It created a ripple effect almost instantly.

The incident of the Angel Orphanage was swept under the rug by He Lan Chang's influence very quickly. The public had slowly forgotten about it, but this latest video had returned it to the forefront as a chain reaction. The rumors this time were even worse.

Country R's citizens could not help but start to speculate about the hideousness and darkness of this family. The public outcry was so harsh that the police were forced to launch a rescue mission at He Lan villa to save He Bin. However, he could not be found!

No matter how hard the He Lan family's PR team tried to explain this situation, everyone was certain that He Bin had already been killed by He Lan Qi and the body had already been taken care of. They demanded that He Lan Qi be arrested. This development was something He Lan Chang did not expect!

Even though Chui Qian was on their side, he could not help them cover something as huge as this. The whole country saw with their own eyes what He Lan Qi had done. If the police did not arrest He Lan Qi, then the whole country would rise up in revolt.

He Lan Qi was furious, but he had no choice but to allow himself to be led to the police station like a criminal. His father was equally furious, and he knew for sure this was Xia Xinghe's doing. He even suspected the earlier release of the Angel Orphanage news was her handiwork as well. The fact that they dared to challenge him so openly made him bare his

teeth in anger. He wished to capture Xinghe and her accomplices and torture them until their dying breath!

After He Lan Qi was taken away, He Lan Chang's fury lasted for quite a sizeable amount of time. He called Chui Qian and yelled his order at him, "Find that bastard son and bring him to me immediately! Only by showing him alive to the public can my precious son be saved! If you fail me, do not fault me for what I do to you as punishment!"

Chui Qian's eyes darkened as He Lan Chang's threat drifted into his ear. It strengthened his conviction to escape from He Lan Chang's control. He was the president of a country; how could he allow himself to be threatened and ordered around like this?

However, facing He Lan Chang, Chui Qian did not dare show any trace of dissatisfaction. "Do not worry, I will look for him as fast as I can, he should still be alive. Then, He Lan Qi will be safe."

"I hope you can fulfill your promise and find him as soon as possible. Also, take care of those vermin from the Shen family! Chui Qian, this is your chance to impress me, so do not disappoint me. If you do, I will have to suspect you have secret dealings with Hwa Xia's Shen family." He Lan Chang ended with an open threat.

Chui Qian's eyes turned chillier, but his tone was as subservient as ever. "Why would you suspect something like that? Do not worry, I will follow your instructions obediently."

"Good, get it done quickly." He Lan Chang then hung up on him. He always talked to him like this, like the president was a station lower than himself. He Lan Chang ordered Chui Qian around like he was his servant, he didn't give him a shred of respect.

Even though Chui Qian admitted that He Lan Chang was crucial during his start-up period, it did not mean that he gave He Lan Chang the right to trample all over him.

No matter who it was, being treated like a disposable tool would breed resentment. Furthermore, Chui Qian had the

intention to escape He Lan Chang's control for a very long time. He realized this was a never-ending road, he did not want to sink deeper into the darkness. He wished to break away from them as soon as he could to regain the freedom he deserved.

Chapter 755: Agree to Cooperate

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, he had many weaknesses that He Lan Chang knew of and that was why he was always obsequious towards him. Regardless, he had reached his limit; he could not stand being his puppet anymore.

Furthermore, it was obvious from the series of misfortunes that kept happening to the He Lan family that the Shen family planned to fight them to the death. Eventually, he would also be burnt by the fires. Therefore, the wise choice was to collaborate with the Shen family to remove He Lan Chang, only then he would have the chance to survive.

Before He Lan Chang's hectoring call, Chui Qian still had his reservations about his decision, but now he had decided. He lost all hesitation; he was going to accept Xinghe's offer at cooperation!

After Chui Qian made his decision, he immediately contacted Xinghe. Xinghe was indeed waiting for his call.

Xinghe picked up her phone that was ringing and a weighty smile blossomed on her face when she saw the caller ID. "Chui Qian is calling."

Ee Chen and the rest were excited. "Xinghe, you might as well go be a fortune-teller! Quick, answer the call and let's hear him out."

Xinghe nodded and pressed the answer button leisurely. "Hello, Mr. President, how are you?"

"Good afternoon, Miss Xia." Chui Qian also kept up the charade. "Miss Xia, there is a new video that appeared online today, I wonder if you have seen it?"

Xinghe was not surprised by his question. She answered it honestly. "I have, in fact, I believe I might have been the first one to see it."

If she said she was the first one to see it, then chances were, she was the one who released it...

Chui Qian was more convinced that the earlier video about Angel Orphanage was her handiwork as well. He was very impressed by her party. They not only managed to capture the He Lan family's slip up on film but also shuttled He Bin out of He Lan Villa without anyone noticing. These feats were not doable by just anyone.

If he chose to be their enemy, Chui Qian believed evidence harmful against him would fall into their hands eventually as well. Chui Qian was not that naïve to think this was a problem that could be solved by having them assassinated. After all, Xinghe represented Hwa Xia, if anything happened to her while she was in his country, Hwa Xia would demand an explanation. Furthermore, there must be a direct line of information between her and Hwa Xia's president. Therefore, removing one Xia Xinghe was pointless unless he could remove the entire Hwa Xia!

Thankfully, Xinghe had reached out towards him for cooperation, their main target was not him, so he still had a chance at survival and that chance was cooperating with them.

Chui Qian said openly, "Miss Xia, I have thought long and hard about the thing that you mentioned to me last time and I agree to cooperate with you."

Chui Qian said with confidence, because what other choices did he have?

"Mr. President has made a brilliant decision! Do not worry, I assure you this is not going to be a decision that you will regret," Xinghe said with a smile, and the promise was like a balm that soothed Chui Qian's worried heart. Since he was not in their line of fire, it made sense for him to cooperate and not sign his own death warrant.

"Miss Xia, what will your next course of action be?" Chui Qian asked directly, dropping all the airs of a president.

"Our next course of action is to wait, of course, you will also do the same. Tomorrow, after our people get here, we will need you to help arrange a secret meeting for us with He Lan Qi. We will explain everything else to you when the time is right."

Hearing that, Chui Qian swallowed his questions. From the way she laid down the plan details and the tone of her voice, Xinghe sounded like a woman with her own ideals.

At the same time, she was telling him, even though she selected him as a corroborator, it did not mean that she was going to abide herself to his every command. They were equal partners in this relationship.

Chapter 756: The Plan

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He was reminded that it was he who needed their help; he needed their aid to eliminate the He Lan family. He needed them more than they needed him...

“Okay, contact me tomorrow. Please take care of your safety because He Lan Chang has ordered assassinations on all of you,” Chui Qian reminded them kindly.

“Thank you for your concern. We will be extra careful. Try not to arouse his suspicion on your end, be patient for a little while longer and we will be able to take them all down.”

Xinghe’s confidence gave Chui Qian a great surge of hope. He sighed in relief because it seemed like he had made the right choice.

“Then, I will await your good news. Tell me if a situation arises that requires my cooperation.”

“Okay, Mr. Chui, let’s hope for a rewarding cooperation.”

“Definitely.”

Then, they both hung up at the same time. Mubai and the rest had heard from Xinghe’s conversation that Chui Qian had agreed to working with them. He asked Xinghe with a smile, “Finally got his cooperation?”

Xinghe nodded. “Yes, from the way he sounded, I believe he has seen the light.”

“Xinghe, how did you know he would eventually side with us?” Ali asked curiously. This was a question on everyone’s mind.

Xinghe smiled. “Because he is afraid we will defeat the He Lan family. He has to pick his side soon or else his ending will not be pretty.”

Sam laughed heartily. “Looks like this president is not dumb. And we just so happen to have the evidence of his criminal activities. If he did not choose to cooperate with us, I am sure he would be going down alongside the He Lan family!”

“This means that we won’t be needing He Bin’s testimony for now. In fact, if he does not betray us, we can keep the testimony forever,” Xinghe said matter-of-factly, but there was a cruel undertone in her voice. Even though Chui Qian had chosen to cooperate with them, it did not mean that she trusted him completely and implicitly. Should he become a turncoat, Xinghe would not hesitate to destroy him.

However, he would not betray them because it wouldn’t benefit him the least from making enemies from both sides. Regardless, his choice was the catalyst they were waiting for. With Chui Qian’s cooperation, the rest of the plan could be carried out more easily. They just needed a little bit more time and the He Lan family would be over!

Then, the secrets of Project Galaxy would be cracked open and she would be able to locate her mother...

Xinghe could not wait for that day to arrive. However, this did not mean that it would make her careless just because she was so close to her goal. In anything, she was even more cautious and checked her every step. She would not allow anyone or anything to stand in the way of her!

She would remove all obstructions!

No one could stop her desire to flatten the He Lan family. Mubai and her friends were fully in support of her.

Even Lu Qi was in her corner. The second day, Lu Qi was brought to Country R. After fetching him in secret, they went to meet up with He Lan Qi.

Chui Qian had arranged everything. He slipped some sleeping pills into He Lan Qi’s drink so that he would not know they were doing to him. Xinghe’s plan was officially kick-started. That moment was the moment the He Lan family’s fate started its decline towards destruction.

In fact, He Lan Chang could feel a bad omen weighing down on him. Other than breathing down Chui Qian’s neck, he also arranged his men to look for Xinghe’s group. He Lan Chang was beyond the point of caring. His order was to kill anyone from Xinghe’s group on the spot should they be seen.

However, Xinghe's group had gone into hiding. No matter how hard his men searched for them, they were not to be found.

The negative discussion about He Lan Qi had never stopped. It continued to be the most discussed topic in Country R.

Chapter 757: Everything Will Be Ending Soon (End of the Country R Arc)

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This meant that He Lan Chang could not pay his bail even if he wanted to. He Lan Qi had to remain behind bars. He was fuming in captivity. He was the young master of the prestigious He Lan family, how could they make him suffer through such humiliation?

He Lan Qi spent his every waking hour locked inside prison; he was close to breaking down. However, there was nothing he could do but wait for his father to find He Bin. Only by locating He Bin could his murder charge be cleared.

However, a long time had passed, and the police still could not find He Bin. Not only that, they could not even locate Xinghe's party.

At the same time, the He Lan family's business suffered greatly, they had lost quite a sizeable profit. The police came to investigate them every other day and it rubbed He Lan Chang the wrong way. He got increasingly annoyed as the days went by, and his desire to murder Xinghe and everyone around her gradually deepened.

His attitude towards Chui Qian also worsened. This was because Chui Qian until now had not found him the people he needed, He Lan Chang vented his anger on him almost daily. Chui Qian fed him multiple reasons to console him, but every time after he hung up his phone, Chui Qian's conviction to eliminate He Lan Chang only deepened.

However, it had been almost half a month and Xinghe still showed no sign of moving. If she did not initiate her plan soon, He Lan Chang would have his head.

...

He Lan Chang had lit a fire underneath Chui Qian and he immediately called Xinghe to enquire about her progress. "Miss Xia, He Lan Chang is losing his patience, he is almost at his limits. When will you start your plan?"

“Our plan has already started, and it has been going on smoothly. Tomorrow, we will need your help to arrange a way for us to get close to He Lan Qi again, do not worry because everything will come to an end soon,” Xinghe said softly but there was a wealth of confidence in her voice.

Her answer stopped Chui Qian’s line of question short. He replied excitedly, “Okay, I will go arrange everything immediately!”

At that point, he did not even care what their plan was anymore, he just wanted them to get He Lan Chang off his back. He was afraid he might not be able to hold on any longer.

However, to Chui Qian’s surprise, after Xinghe’s party secretly came into contact with He Lan Qi, He Lan Qi fell seriously ill. He was unconscious, burning from high fever. At the same time, he received a call from Xinghe that asked him to have He Lan Chang fetch his son back.

Chui Qian was stunned. “You want me to release He Lan Qi?”

Xinghe nodded. “That’s right. He is currently unconscious and thus should return to his family or else He Lan Chang might raise a storm.”

“What did you guys do to He Lan Qi?” Chui Qian asked anxiously. He might have agreed to cooperate with them and arrest He Lan Qi, but that did not mean that he would allow anything to happen to He Lan Qi because it was not time for that yet. If anything happened to He Lan Qi, He Lan Chang would have his life.

“Miss Xia, now is not the time to poke He Lan Chang!” Chui Qian reminded with a serious voice. “Before you have absolute confidence, you must not corner He Lan Chang or he might lash out indiscriminately.”

Xinghe saw his concern immediately. She replied calmly, “Do not worry, He Lan Qi will not die, in fact, I would say, he is at the peak of his health. When he wakes up, everything will be over.”

“Why?” Chui Qian was confused.

Xinghe smirked. “I cannot reveal the details just yet, I will explain everything when the case is sealed and done. Mr. Chui, we are one step away from the end, you must choose to believe in us because I can tell you, our plan will definitely be a success.”

Chui Qian saw the confidence and determination glowing brightly in her eyes. For some strange reason, he felt reassured and chose to believe in her.

Chapter 758: One Week Period

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe had this uncanny charm that could win anyone over if she tried. Or else, under normal circumstances, Chui Qian would not have dared to take on such a huge risk without knowing everything.

Chui Qian followed Xinghe's request and immediately called He Lan Chang to come fetch He Lan Qi. He Lan Qi's sudden sickness was indeed a surprise for He Lan Chang.

Initially, he thought He Lan Qi was drugged while he was in jail, but the doctors found nothing suspicious in his system. They said he was fine, just suffering through a serious flu, it was nothing life threatening. That made He Lan Chang sighed in relief.

However, it did nothing to squelch his anger towards Chui Qian. During his secret meeting with Chui Qian, he interrogated him viciously, "Your work has been becoming increasingly shoddy, how can you fail to find a small party of people when you have the whole government under your control? Or have you colluded with them and that is why you have nothing to report?"

Chui Qian immediately voiced his loyalty. "How could that be possible? I gain no benefits from working with them, is that not digging my own grave? I have tried my best to look for them, but they have hidden themselves very well. There are no clues or traces of them whatsoever."

"Even with the whole country in your control, you fail to complete a simple task like this; why am I still keeping you around? Chui Qian, my patience is limited, and I will never allow anyone to challenge me! I will give you another week, and if you still turn up with nothing, then you will announce your recusal from the presidency. I already have people lining up to take your position. Do not ever think about challenging my decision because you will not be able to suffer the consequences!" He Lan Chang slammed the door and left after leaving that threat.

Chui Qian gritted his fists and suppressed the fury burning within him. He had done so many things for He Lan Chang, but he knew that, in He Lan Chang's eyes, he was nothing more than a dog. In fact, he believed He Lan Chang treated He Bin the same way.

Therefore, He Bin was like the example of his future. No matter how good he was, the one time he failed He Lan Chang, he would not hesitate to have him ruined. Working for He Lan Chang was akin to a devil's bargain, there was no way he could survive it.

Therefore, only by revolting against him would he have a fighting chance. That was why he chose to cooperate with Xinghe. He Lan Chang's threat reminded him that this was his only chance at freedom. He had already betrayed He Lan Chang, so it was already too late for him to go back. He could only grit his teeth and continue on this path that he had chosen.

Thankfully, when Xinghe found out about He Lan Chang's threat, she told him reassuringly that he would be fine. This gave Chui Qian some confidence and a small degree of anticipation.

However, as the limit drew closer, Chui Qian's anxiety level gradually increased. He was under immense pressure every day and in the blink of an eye, the one-week limit was up.

To his surprise, He Lan Qi's revival also coincided with this limit. He Lan Chang demanded Chui Qian hide the fact that He Lan Qi had gained consciousness and had He Lan Qi stay at home instead of having him sent back into prison. The public was still under the impression that He Lan Qi was still unconscious at the hospital.

Chui Qian did that, but that did not mean He Lan Chang was going to forgive Chui Qian. The one-week limit was up, and Chui Qian still had not found Xinghe's party; He Lan Chang decided he was at his breaking point.

He called Chui Qian and ordered him on the phone, "Today, you will figure out a way to announce your recusal and I will have my man replace your position temporarily. Remember, do not ever think of challenging me, or your end will only be

worse! And I want to see the news of your recusal on national television by twelve in the afternoon or else you will lose more than you have now... for example, your life. Do you understand?"

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

We're almost to the end now. Thanks for still hanging around
<3

The World Crisis arc: 758 – 845. 758 – 767: He Lan Chang's End; 768 – 792: The Orphanage; 793 – 800: The Base; 801 – 815: World Crisis; 816 – 823: Difficulties; 824 – 845: Xinghe and Mubai's Crisis

Chapter 759: Xia Xinghe Came Alone

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You still have three hours to prepare everything, so do not make these three hours the last few hours of your life!”

After He Lan Chang spat out everything, his every syllable laced with resentment, he slammed down his phone. He did not give Chui Qian a chance to explain himself. Chui Qian put down his phone and a chill spread across his body like he was sitting inside an ice-box. The collective pressure over the past week had drained the color from his face and his movements were mechanical.

He sat there blankly, unsure of what to do. The sunlight filtered through the window blinded him until he felt light-headed and light of breathing. After a long contemplation under such a stressed environment, Chui Qian took a deep breath and called Xinghe. “Miss Xia, I am running out of time. If I do not announce my resignation from the presidency before twelve, He Lan Chang will have my life. Perhaps, this is where our cooperation ends.”

“There are still three hours before twelve,” Xinghe said softly.

Chui Qian laughed self-deprecatingly and said, “Indeed, there are still three hours before twelve. Do you know it took me almost ten years under his control before I managed to get to this seat? However, he only gave me three hours to give it up. This may be a good thing because finally I can get away from the pressure. To be frank, I do not mind giving up this post, but after that, I will be another one of He Lan Chang’s abandoned chess pieces. If this is He Lan Chang we are talking about, my days are already numbered. I am already prepared to face the consequences from accepting this devil’s bargain, but I am indeed sorry I am unable to aid you until the very end. I wish all of you the best. I have tried my best.”

There were heavy traces of sadness and despair in Chui Qian’s voice. It sounded like all hope had been drained out of his life.

After his little confession, Xinghe responded calmly, “Mr. Chui, you have already been such a great help to us. Watch

these three hours closely. You will not need to give up everything and will soon escape He Lan Chang's control. This is the reward you have earned for choosing to cooperate with us."

Chui Qian was taken aback. "What did you say?"

He really could survive with every part of him still intact and more than that, escape from He Lan Chang's control?

Xinghe did not repeat herself. She said, "The reality will show you. Mr. Chui, wait for my good news. It is time for me to go see He Lan Chang."

"You're going to see He Lan Chang?" Chui Qian sucked in his breath from shock. "You cannot do that; he will not let you walk out his villa alive!"

Xinghe smiled on the other end of the phone. "You've got that the wrong way around. I will not forgive He Lan Chang for everything that he has done. Mr. Chui, I shan't continue to convince you with words; you shall see for yourself who is right in a little while."

With that, Xinghe hung up without much explanation. Chui Qian was sick with worry. Can Xinghe really take down He Lan Chang in a short period of time?

Chui Qian thought it was unlikely, but she did sound absurdly confident on the phone. Chui Qian could not help but cheer for her and pray for her safety.

However, on the other hand, his logic told him, how could she topple someone as powerful as He Lan Chang on such short notice?

In any case, Chui Qian could not figure out what Xinghe's plan was, but she was his only hope. Therefore, Chui Qian fidgeted in the president's office, praying to hear from her the good news...

...

Xinghe went alone to He Lan Villa. Her sudden arrival gave He Lan Chang the shock of his life. He Lan Chang's men were still going around the country looking for her and she

presented herself to him at his house... He would not let this good opportunity slip out of his fingers.

However, his paranoia told him that, since she dared to come and face him alone, she must have come prepared.

Chapter 760: My Life

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, no matter what, since she had arrived, there was no way he was not going to meet her. He Lan Chang quickly had his men show her in. At the same time, the maids performed a thorough body check on her. Xinghe was led in after it was confirmed she had nothing dangerous on her.

A woman like her walking into the lion's den with nothing to protect herself, even the maids could not help but be worried for her.

He Lan Chang was relaxed when he heard the news, he only kept one of his bodyguards around.

The moment Xinghe stepped into the living room, she came face-to-face with He Lan Chang's sharp and diabolical gaze. Similarly, the gaze Xinghe returned was chilling and devoid of any warmth.

This was the second time Xinghe and He Lan Chang met in person. The first time was when she first came to Country R; he was the graceful and kind host and she was the polite guest then.

However, the way they looked at each other was completely different this time. It was like they were staring their nemesis. They were on the opposite camp from each other; they each wanted the other dead.

He Lan Chang did not waste time with pretenses. He laughed fiendishly and praised, "Miss Xia truly is an impressive character, I admit I underestimated you earlier."

He really did not expect a woman would create continuous trouble for the He Lan family. She not only managed to silently steal He Bin out from under his nose but also managed to avoid being detected by his search for such a long time. This time truly had far exceeded his expectation.

Xinghe strode forward calmly and said, "Old Master He Lan is equally impressive as well, therefore, I suppose this time we have both met our match."

He Lan Chang suddenly started guffawing but the iciness in his eyes never went away. “Met my match? A little girl such as yourself? Xia Xinghe, don’t make me laugh. You are too young to come after someone like myself! Furthermore, you came to my house today without any backup, if that is not the height of stupidity, I do not know what is!”

He Lan Chang’s lethal intent towards her was revealed openly but Xinghe showed no trace of fear, she only smiled thinly. “Since I dared come alone, naturally, I have made some preparation, so you might want to reconsider your plan to kill me.”

He Lan Chang smirked coolly. “There is no need to consider so much to take the life of someone insignificant like you. After I kill you, there will be someone who looks like you that will walk out this place to assume your life. Do not worry, I have also prepared fully, no one will be able to pin your death on me.”

“Is that so?” Xinghe nodded with intrigue. “Looks like I have to leave my life here today.”

“That’s right!” He Lan Chang glared severely at her. “You should have known death was waiting for you when you decided to come after us! Xia Xinghe, if you give me He Bin’s location, I might consider giving you a swift death or there will be pain that you are unable to imagine waiting for you. Little girl, heed my advice when I tell you to not go after your experienced elders because your ending will not be pretty.”

He Lan Chang’s every word was dripping with venom. This was his true face; this man had more in common with venomous scorpion than his fellow human.

However, Xinghe maintained her composure. There was no trace of fear on her face. She even sat down across from him and replied, with a raised brow, “You have done your damage on He Bin so why do you care where he is? He is your son, is he not? Why not just let him be?”

“Because he has not paid with his life for his betrayal. Even if he is nothing more than a dog that I have raised, he has to be

given adequate punishment,” He Lan Chang said matter-of-factly.

Chapter 761: Take Your Secrets With You to Hell

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe nodded with understanding. “Since you aren’t even going to show kindness to your son, my death was sealed the moment I walked in here.”

“It is good that you can understand that.”

“Since I am a dead woman, why would you help me understand this? I have been searching for my mother my whole life, so I just want to know where she is,” Xinghe asked as she stared at him, there was a great serenity behind her. This was an answer she had to find out.

He Lan Chang scoffed with derision. “Why would you ask me something like that? He Lan family’s orphanages are not an intelligence agency, we are only responsible for raising her, we do not keep track to what happens to her after she reached legal age.”

“He Lan Chang, you can drop the pretense in front of me,” Xinghe interrupted him. “She is definitely in your hands and what is Project Galaxy?”

He Lan Chang was taken aback. His eyes scanned the full length of Xinghe’s frame and the venom in his eyes deepened. “You know about Project Galaxy?”

Xinghe nodded casually. “I have heard of it, but I have no clue what it really is. The reason I came today to know everything before I die. I will trade you He Bin’s location for the truth.”

“There is no need for a dying woman to know so much,” He Lan Chang said wickedly. He gestured to his bodyguard. The bodyguard whipped out his pistol immediately and aimed it at Xinghe. The murderous intent unfurled across the living room like fog.

He Lan Chang was ready to kill Xinghe. Even though he had already suspected that Xinghe knew their secret, hearing her say it aloud still gave him quite a shock. Since she knew their secret, she had to die!

The depths of He Lan Chang's eyes were a bottomless pit of cruelty. With his one order, a bullet would rip through Xinghe's heart. However, at that moment, Xinghe was still as collected as ever.

She laughed. "There is no need for you to rush to kill me. Are you not interested in He Bin's location?"

He Lan Chang smirked viciously. "Compared to you who knows too much, he is no longer important. Furthermore, I will eventually have him returned to this house and pay for what he did! Xia Xinghe, you have volunteered your life to me so do not come back to haunt me. After you die, your mother will come to accompany you soon, so you can ask her everything when you two have your reunion down there."

Xinghe did away with her smile and asked directly, "So you are not going to give the satisfaction of knowing the truth before killing me?"

He Lan Chang sneered with evilness. "I would much prefer you die with this great regret in your heart."

Xinghe sighed. "I was hoping you would tell me everything before you die, but it looks like you are going to take all your secrets with you down to hell!"

He Lan Chang was confused, and before he could understand what was happening, the bodyguard turned around and pointed his gun at He Lan Chang!

He Lan Chang's face hardened immediately. He glared at his bodyguard with surprise and demanded with an angry boom, "Idiot, what are you doing?"

The bodyguard answered coolly, "Old Master, please forgive me. I am only following the young master's orders."

"Young master?" He Lan Chang was surprised once morning. He had no idea what the bodyguard was talking about. He felt like someone had gone into his brain and moved everything around; he had a difficult time computing what was happening. Am I dreaming? Why did my man suddenly turn on me?

“That’s right, he is merely carrying out my order.” Suddenly,
He Lan Qi slowly strode down from upstairs.

Chapter 762: I Am Not Him!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His voice was cold and devoid of warmth. He Lan Chang's brain went into another shut down when he heard him.

He widened his eyes in shock and asked with disbelief, "It was you? He Lan Qi, what are you doing? I am your father, have you lost your mind? What are you planning with this?"

"Of course, he is planning to kill you, have you still not understood that?" Xinghe stood up and answered coolly.

He Lan Chang whipped his head around to stare at her. "What do you mean?"

Xinghe sighed and looked at him like he was a stubborn child. "I mean, today will be your last."

He Lan Chang's face hardened. He Lan Qi strode to before him and he levelled He Lan Chang a cheerless gaze. He Lan Chang's confused eyes met his gaze. Why would my precious son look at me in such a manner, and more than that, plan to kill me? What in the world is really happening?

"Why?" He Lan Chang looked at He Lan Qi and asked. There was a deep well of pain in his voice. He really did not understand why his son would commit something as atrocious as patricide!

He Lan Qi savored the disbelief on his father's face and his face broke into a satisfied smile. "Because this is payback for not treating me as your real son and for planning to have me murdered!"

"When have I not treated you as my real son? And when did I plan to kill you?" He Lan Chang demanded angrily.

He Lan Qi did not answer. Instead he aimed his pistol at He Lan Chang and ordered the bodyguard, "Go guard the door, make sure no one come near."

"Yes, Young Master." The bodyguard nodded and moved to oblige. The spacious living room was left with only the three of them.

He Lan Chang gripped the arm of his chair tightly while staring guardedly at He Lan Qi. He was trying to figure out a way to save himself. However, He Lan Qi's eyes were on him constantly, he gave him no chance to save himself.

He Lan Chang demanded again, "Little Qi, what is wrong with you? How can you treat your own father this way, have I ever treated you wrongly in your life?"

"Yes, you have treated me wrongly my entire life," He Lan Qi spat out with hatred. "I have always treated you as my father, but I realize now I am nothing more than a dog for you! He Lan Chang, I bet you did not envision this situation when you ordered to have me killed, right?"

He Lan Chang was befuddled. He roared, "What are you talking about? When have I ordered a hit on you, I have done nothing wrong by you, right? He Lan Qi, do you understand what you are doing?"

"Do not call me He Lan Qi, I am not him!" He Lan Qi yelled in return, his eyes flashing with resentment. "He Lan Chang, I am not your golden boy, He Lan Qi. I am He Bin, the abandoned son that you have been trying very hard to find and eliminate."

"What?" He Lan Chang's emotion could no longer be described as shock. He stared at He Lan Qi dumbly. The person standing before him was indeed He Lan Qi, so why did he say he was He Bin?

He Lan Chang scanned He Lan Qi's full frame slowly and closely but there was no way he could convince himself this was He Bin.

Xinghe walked to stand beside He Lan Qi and explained softly to He Lan Chang, "Do not look so surprised, he is He Bin, it is just that the body is He Lan Qi's."

"What, what are you two talking about..." He Lan Chang asked like he was a senile old man. What does she mean by he is He Bin but the body is Little Qi's. How come I cannot understand a word that she is saying?

Xinghe looked at his reaction and scoffed aloud, “How can you claim to be the mastermind behind Project Galaxy and not know what a memory cell is?”

“Memory cells?” He Lan Chang was shocked once more. How do they know about memory cells?

Chapter 763: A Dream

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“It is the creation of one of the members from Project Galaxy. Memory cells can swap the memory of a person, did you not know that?” Xinghe stared at him and asked.

Comprehension dawned then for He Lan Chang. There was a mixture of emotions on his face, there were shock, understanding, and disbelief.

“You have traded away my son’s memory?” he demanded angrily.

“That’s right. Now He Lan Qi’s memory has been replaced by He Bin.” Xinghe nodded slightly.

The disbelief on He Lan Chang’s face deepened. “Impossible, the research on memory cells cannot be a success, this is impossible!”

Even if the research was successful, how would it end up in their hands?

He Lan Chang probed agitatedly, “Exactly how much did you know? How much did you know about Project Galaxy?”

This time, the tide had turned. He was the one doing the asking. Xinghe studied his reaction and realized he did not know anything about her mother’s batch. She answered, “We know quite a bit, memory cells, DNA modification, we know about all that. Why, don’t you know about it?”

Indeed, he did not know about them. He Lan Chang felt like he was in a dream. Why would they have more information than he did? And how exactly did they find out about all of this? Furthermore, does this mean that research on memory cells and DNA modification are all successful? The things that he had dreamt of are all stuff of reality?

He Lan Chang said excitedly, “What you’re telling me is all real? The research on memory cells is successful, even the research on the DNA modification technology that can extend one’s lifespan was also successful?”

Xinghe frowned slightly noticing his reaction. He Lan Chang seemed to have forgotten there was a pistol pointing at his head, he demanded from Xinghe, “Quick, tell me. Is all that research also successful? When did they achieve success? How come I had no clue about it but you do?”

“Because they did not want to tell you,” Xinghe answered coldly. The ‘they’ she referred to were Xia Meng and Xie Xiaoxi’s fathers.

“Impossible!” He Lan Chang retorted angrily, “Their freedom can only be gained once their research is successful. They are all still in my grasp, so it is impossible for them to not tell me! Furthermore, how could they possibly tell you when they are still in my hands? It is impossible for you to know any of this!”

These unknowns that were out of his control irked He Lan Chang. He stood and tried to rush at Xinghe but He Bin’s pistol pressed heavily on his brain. He Lan Chang seemed to suddenly realize the situation he was in.

He glared at He Bin viciously and demanded, “He Bin, I am your father, how dare you treat me like this? You ingrate, quickly put your gun down!”

He Bin could not help but laugh. “He Lan Chang, even at a time like this, do you think you can still order me around? Do you really think I will still treat you as my father?”

He Lan Chang was stunned. He realized he could no longer lord over He Bin like he used to. He saw the hatred in He Bin’s eyes. He Bin was going to kill him, but he must not die yet.

He Lan Chang immediately changed tact and expressed his sadness. “He Bin, no matter what, I am still your father. I have raised you single-handedly, even if you hate me, you should not treat me like this. Furthermore, it was never my intention to kill you, I merely wanted to physically punish you for betraying me. I am your father, so how could I have the heart to have you killed? You must not let yourself be seduced by this vixen!”

Chapter 764: Kill Him and I Will Save you

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“You have never planned to kill me?” He Bin pressed his pistol deeper into He Lan Chang’s temple and hissed, “He Lan Chang, do you really think I am an idiot? Even at a time like this, you can still lie without batting an eye and believe that I will buy into your nonsense?”

The thick-skinned He Lan Chang continued, “But I really did not want to kill you, it was just a way of speech, an exaggeration. You are my son, my flesh and blood, how could I order you killed? Son, put the gun down, we should be working together to face this woman and not each other! We are kin after all.”

“So, this is how Old Master He Lan treats his own kin, with such cruelty,” Xinghe commented with a smirk.

He Lan Chang suddenly roared angrily, “B*tch, stop trying to drive a wedge between us! This is between father and son, who are you to meddle in our business? If not for you, how could have I doubted my own precious son? This is all your ploy; you are trying to pit us against each other...”

At that moment, He Lan Chang seemed to have found the hope, he turned to tell He Bin excitedly, “Son, that’s right. This is her plan to divide us! You must not fall for it. I am your biological father! After you kill me, you will be an orphan! Son, do not do something that you will regret for the rest of your life, okay?”

He Lan Chang even managed to squeeze in a tear at the end of his speech. Even Xinghe had to be impressed by his acting. She thought someone as vicious as He Lan Chang would have a cavalier attitude regarding life; she really did not expect him to be so afraid of death.

Then again, he stood to lose a lot if he died. Furthermore, now that he knew the memory cell and DNA modification research had been successful, his desire to live must have gotten stronger. Alas, he had to die, even if they allowed him to live,

he would be incarcerated and lose all his power as well as influence!

He Bin's internal emotions were a wreck witnessing He Lan Chang in this state. His eyes shuddered temporarily but no one could tell what he was really thinking.

"Did you really not plan to kill me?" he asked He Lan Chang cautiously.

He Lan Chang saw the salvation of hope and piled on his argument. "Of course, I do not have the heart to have you killed! You are my son, of course, I would not give such a ridiculous order."

"But, He Lan Qi said you did!" He Bin smiled coldly. "It was him who put me in this state, I am a cripple because of him. Furthermore, I am sure he definitely wanted me dead!"

He Lan Chang's eyes shivered and made a solemn promise. "I will make sure he will not lift another finger against you ever again. He Bin, there are many things that we have done wrong by you, but I swear we will make it up to you in the future. Son, can you not trust your own father one more time?"

"Okay," He Bin promised.

He Lan Chang was shocked, but it was quickly followed by joy. "You finally chose to believe me? Wonderful, I am glad..."

"But I have to kill He Lan Qi!" He Bin interrupted him. This time He Lan Chang did not even have the time to react.

He Bin stared at him and these words tumbled out of He Lan Qi's mouth, "The only way to squelch the hatred in my heart is to kill He Lan Qi. Only by killing him can my safety be guaranteed. Furthermore, this is the only way I can believe you are not lying to me. Say yes and I will let you go free."

He Lan Chang's eyes chilled and his jaw shuddered involuntarily, but it was unknown whether it was from shock or from anger.

He lectured He Bin with equal measure vehemence and pain, "He Lan Qi is your own brother, how can you be so heartless

towards him? He Bin, how can you even fathom doing something so despicable as fratricide?"

Chapter 765: Both Go and Die

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He Bin laughed internally. He Lan Qi could kill him because it was not fratricide, but if he wanted to return the favor, it was cruel?

He Bin understood then, in his father's heart, the only son he recognized was He Lan Qi.

He Bin said expressionlessly, "Father, no matter what you say now, it is useless. There are only two choices before you, either I kill both of you and ensure my own safety, or you abandon He Lan Qi and take me as your only son. Make your choice quickly, I do not have all day."

He Lan Chang was angered. "Do you have to give me such an ultimatum? Both of you are my sons, I..."

"Make your choice!" He Bin demanded severely, he did not want to hear his nonsense anymore. "If you cannot make one, I will just kill you now and end your suffering!"

He Lan Chang was startled, and his face shifted. This was because he saw the murderous intent in He Bin's eyes. This assassin son that he cultivated really did not disappoint him; there was no way trying to appeal to his heart, because it was already removed during his years of training.

If he had known this day would have happened, he would have strangled him when he was born!

If possible, he would not hesitate to kill him there and then. However, that was impossible, because he was their hostage.

He Lan Chang hid the viciousness in his eyes and closed his eyes to sigh. "I have treated you wrongly for so many years, so I cannot allow myself to do that anymore. Son, if you really want me to choose, I will have to choose you, but I beg you to not kill your brother. You can take your revenge all you want on him but please keep him alive."

He Lan Chang's speech was full of emotion, melancholy, and helplessness. It was as if the choice was very difficult for him

and he was really a loving father who could not afford to lose any one of his sons.

But would a real loving father make the choice he did?
Sacrificed his own son to save himself?

Thankfully, He Bin had already seen through his cruelty and despicability. If he continued to buy into his sweet words, then he would really be the dumbest person ever.

He Bin asked coldly and forced He Lan Chang to admit his choice clearly, “So your choice is for me to kill He Lan Qi?”

Hearing his decision stated out loud made the hidden hatred in He Lan Chang’s eyes rise to the surface once more.

“... That’s right because I cannot continue to disappoint you anymore,” He Lan Chang hissed through gritted teeth, but at the same time, he swore internally he would chop this bastard son of his into pieces when the chance presented itself!

He Bin suddenly laughed.

He Lan Chang opened his eyes to look at him in shock. “What are you laughing about?”

He Bin’s laughs had petered to a mirthless chuckle. He stared at He Lan Chang like the latter was an idiot. “What am I laughing about? I am laughing at you! You are heartless enough to even abandon your precious He Lan Qi, do you think I am dumb enough to trust someone like that?”

“You...” He Lan Chang was shaking with anger. This bastard has been toying with me!

The fact that He Lan Chang had been playing the role of loving father for their amusement flared him up! He felt humiliated from being played a complete fool.

“He Bin, what do you want? You are the one who forced me into making this choice, aren’t you?” He Lan Chang demanded angrily like he was disappointed in him. Even at the time like this, he was still playing his part.

He Bin realized there and then that he really did not feel any connection to this man anymore. He refused to spend another second in his presence; it was making him sick from within.

“I was only testing you for fun. Actually, there was no choice to begin with because both you and He Lan Qi will have to die!” He Bin glared into his eyes and said ferociously.

He Lan Chang widened his pupils—

Chapter 766: He Lan Chang's Ending

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The next second, He Bin grabbed at his throat, his eyes burning with nefarious intent.

“What are you doing?” He Lan Chang tried to pull his arms off, but he was no match for a young man in his prime. He Bin tossed his gun away and pulled out a medicine bottle from his pocket. He then poured it down He Lan Chang's throat.

The liquid drug swirled down He Lan Chang's throat easily. Even though he had no idea what it was, he knew for a fact that it was not going to be something beneficial. He Lan Chang struggled with his full strength; he tried to vomit out the medicine, but He Bin slammed his mouth shut and forced the medicine down his throat.

When he made sure that the medicine had gone down into his stomach, He Bin tossed his father away and he landed on the sofa with a soft thud.

He Lan Chang tried his best to induce vomit, but it was already too late, he could feel his heart palpitate.

“What... what did you just give me?” He Lan Chang interrogated with authority.

He Bin looked down on him and answered expressionlessly, “A type of medicine that will make you senile for the rest of your life.”

“What?” He Lan Chang was shocked.

He Bin laughed with deprecation. “In the end, I decided to keep you alive, you don't need to thank me.”

“You, you b*stard, I am going to kill you!” He Lan Chang rushed at He Bin with his claws lashing. As his fingers clamped around He Bin's throat, he started to feel difficulty in his breathing and the world started to spin...

He Bin looked at him coldly; there was barely a ripple of emotion in his eyes. There was no joy from having taken his revenge, or even sadness from losing his father. If there was an

emotion to describe what he was feeling then, it was relief, relief that everything was finally over. He no longer felt tied to the He Lan family and his father's shadow was no longer looming over him. He could finally be himself again, without having to answer to anyone but himself.

However, He Lan Chang was not yet ready for this ending!

He had worked for so many years to support the He Lan family and he had just gotten wonderful news about his project, but it was ruined by his own son at the very last minute, how could he accept such a fate?

He did not want to go senile, he did not want to lose his memory and the success that was so deliciously close to his reach!

He tightened his grip around He Bin's throat and used his last bout of strength to try to snap his neck. There were tears flowing down He Lan Chang's eyes; these were probably the only genuine tears of regret he had in his life...

However, no matter how unwilling he was or how deep his regret, he could feel his consciousness fading and the strength leaving his body. His knees started to give, and he knew he was going to fall at any moment.

He Lan Chang subconsciously grabbed at He Bin's shirt, trying to steady himself. Before he crumbled, he hissed out the very last thought that was on his mind, "No, not yet..."

Looking at the 'dying' He Lan Chang on the floor, He Bin laughed. "Think this is too soon of an end for you? Perfect, because this is the punishment that you deserve!"

"Well done," Xinghe told He Bin softly. She had made herself invisible during the father and son exchange earlier but she did approve of He Bin's final decision.

He Bin asked her, "You are not angry that I did not kill him?"

Xinghe shook her head. "I am not always out to kill. If anything, this will be a greater punishment to him than death."

A lifetime of senility, a life where he had to depend on others for even the most basic of human functions. A life with zero

honor. This kind of life was the most fitting punishment for He Lan Chang.

However, He Bin was still appreciative of her understanding. “I am still thankful that you guys are willing to let him live. I am sorry because I could not find it within myself to kill him with my own two hands.”

“I understand, but you have done very well. I will leave the rest to you, because from today onwards, you will be the head for the whole He Lan family,” Xinghe told him matter-of-factly.

Chapter 767: Settle Everything

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He Bin understood, from then on until the very end, he had to carry on as He Lan Qi. This was to facilitate Xinghe's plan.

He Bin nodded. "Do not worry. I know what to do."

"Good." Xinghe nodded in return. She left after settling some more things. There was already a car waiting for her outside when she left He Lan Villa. Mubai and her friends were in the car. They knew the plan had been a success when they saw her exit the house safely.

"Xinghe, is He Lan Chang dead? The plan was a success, right?" Ali who sat in front asked her excitedly as she hopped into the car. Sam, who was driving, and Mubai, who sat beside her, looked at her, also waiting for her to answer.

Xinghe shook her head. "No, he is still alive, He Bin did not have the heart to kill him. However, He Lan Chang will have to spend the rest of his life in bed now."

"Wonderful!" Ali cheered. "That is not a bad thing as well. Serves him right. I still cannot believe the plan has gone so smoothly, now no one will stand our way."

Sam said with a smile, "This is all thanks to these memory cells. This thing is just incredible, if you change your memory right before you die, does this not mean you can practically live on forever?"

When they first found out about memory cells, they were shocked beyond words. They couldn't believe such a thing actually existed in the world. However, they had to believe it when the reality was right there in front of their eyes.

Regardless, until now, Sam's group still found the whole thing very hard to believe.

Xinghe shook her head. "No, Lu Qi's research has brought to light one great weakness to this memory cell technology. They have a short active period; it will take about half a year for all of them to naturally die out. Therefore, He Bin can only be He Lan Qi for at most another half a year."

The memory cells were not meant to aid human beings forever, although Xinghe had a deep suspicion that was why He Lan Chang initiated the research on this technology. Alas, this technology was too against the natural rule of life. It had this fatal limitation. Perhaps it was not meant to achieve absolute success, to overcome this fatal flaw.

Xinghe predicted that, at least in the next several hundred years, success would not be possible.

“Regardless, even if it can only last for six months, it is already very impressive. However, this kind of powerful technology must not be allowed to fall into the wrong hands or else the world will definitely be a chaotic place,” Sam observed.

“We understand.” Xinghe nodded. They had held a long discussion about this; the memory cells could never be announced to the public. Currently, only Xinghe’s trusted circle of friends knew about it, and they would not need to worry about He Bin leaking the information.

Of course, Xinghe would not let Chui Qian know of this technology. In conclusion, no one would know such a thing even existed.

“Where shall we go next?” Mubai leaned in to ask.

Xinghe smiled and said, “To meet Chui Qian and to resolve He Lan Qi’s case. Today, we will help He Lan Qi clear his name.”

Everyone understood that the He Lan Qi Xinghe referred to was He Bin, who was occupying He Lan Qi’s body. For the sake of their plan, they had to clear He Lan Qi of his charges and they needed Chui Qian’s help to do that.

Therefore, Xinghe soon contacted Chui Qian. She told him everything had been resolved and she wanted to meet him in person.

Chui Qian was shocked. “Everything has been resolved?”

Over the past few hours, his heart was burning from anxiety. Just as he was about to crack from pressure, Xinghe’s call was

like an opportune rain that extinguished all his worry. He sat up straighter and color returned to his face.

“Yes, He Lan Chang will never be able to threaten you again. We have even managed to convince He Lan Qi to help us and he has sworn to secrecy,” Xinghe said confidently.

Chapter 768: The Rush

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“He Lan Qi?” Chui Qian was shocked. What did these people do to He Lan Qi so that he was willing to cooperate?

“That’s right, He Lan Qi. From now on, he is one of us.”

“One of us?” Chui Qian repeated in shock. He found Xinghe’s words completely nonsensical.

Xinghe did not go into detail, instead, she said softly, “We will talk more in details when we meet.”

“Okay.” Chui Qian was fine with that. By then, he had developed some sort of reliance on Xinghe, so he was okay with everything she wanted. However, he still found it hard to believe that everything was resolved.

From then on, he had gained full freedom from He Lan Chang’s control?

During the period Xinghe travelled to meet him, Chui Qian was hyped with anticipation and consternation. On one hand, he was afraid Xinghe was pulling his leg, on another, he prayed that it was real. After meeting Xinghe and triple-confirming it with her, the rock lodged in his heart was finally removed and he felt relief swept over him. Chui Qian smiled brilliantly; a light shone from within him.

“Miss Xia, how did you take care of He Lan Chang? The plan went a bit too successfully I feel.”

Indeed, that was a suspicion for those not in the know. Xinghe explained calmly, “It was He Lan Qi who took care of He Lan Chang.”

Chui Qian was startled. “He Lan Qi? Is he not He Lan Chang’s son...”

“He is his son, but there are some secrets between the father and son. After He Lan Qi found out some truths, he decided to side with us.”

“Is that so? What kind of secrets was He Lan Chang hiding from his son?” Chui Qian was intrigued. He had known the

pair of father and son for years, he never noticed any friction between them.

“I am sorry but that is their personal information that I do not have the liberty to release. Do not worry, He Lan Qi has really repented and will be our trustworthy ally. He even promised to cooperate with us unconditionally. He will not say a word about your situation.”

Chui Qian asked, “Then what about He Lan Chang?”

“He is alive, but he can only spend the rest of his life in bed because he has gone senile.”

At that moment, a thought cropped up in Chui Qian’s mind: The bastard deserves it!

Even though he did not personally take his revenge on He Lan Chang, he still felt the great rush of having taken his revenge. The biggest threat to his existence was He Lan Chang. Now that the old man was out of the way, he had nothing to worry about anymore. Since He Lan Qi was willing to pull the trigger on He Lan Chang, it went to show his trustworthiness.

The point was he trusted Xinghe fully. Therefore, he decided to stop trying to dig up the details, the result was satisfactory and that was what he needed.

“Miss Xia, this time, your party has truly impressed me, and I am glad I have chosen to cooperate with you. If you need my help in the future, please do not hesitate to ask, if I can fulfil your request, I will definitely do my best,” Chui Qian said faithfully, deep with appreciation.

Xinghe exchanged a look with Mubai who sat beside her and told Chui Qian, “It is such a coincidence that you would say that because we do need Mr. President’s help.”

Chui Qian asked in return, “What is it? Do tell.”

“We want to know everything you know about the He Lan family.”

Chui Qian was confused. “Couldn’t you get that information from He Lan Qi? I believe, he is more in the know than I am.”

“Turns out He Lan Chang was guarded against him as well. He only knows pockets of information; therefore, we wish to fill in the blanks with your help.”

Chui Qian nodded understandingly. Without asking any more question, he went into a history lesson on the He Lan family, “As you must know by now, the He Lan family migrated to Country R about sixty years ago.”

Chapter 769: The Beginning of His Nightmare

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Within a few years, their business grew exponentially and became the richest in Country R... However, that was not where their ambitions stopped. Utilizing their immense wealth, they squirmed their ways into different governmental departments and greased a few important palms.

“Later on, they even sponsored Country R’s first satellite launching center. Then, the He Lan family started their orphanage to start training talents. After the kids grew up, the He Lan family arranged for them to enter different sectors and important government posts.

“You could say that from the very beginning, the He Lan family had never stopped growing and the true political power of Country R was in their hands. Curiously enough, they were related to every single president this country has ever had. Many of them got the presidency with their support.

“About thirty years ago, the He Lan family was a household name throughout Country R because their influence could be felt all over the country. However, several years after that, they started to retreat to the background and away from the public eye. Nonetheless, this did not mean that their ambitions had dwindled. Many of their pawns were still in the government and they still held great power and influence.

“The only accident happened about ten years ago. Due to the great advancement in terms of culture and economy, the lifestyle of the citizens underwent a major change. The opening of the borders made it so that the people started to believe in democratic ideals.

“Eventually, the streak of conservative presidents was broken, and a newly formed democratic party managed to win the presidency. From that moment on, the conservative party and Democratic Party had contested non-stop. While everyone’s attention was attracted to this tussle between the two parties, the He Lan family successfully faded from the public consciousness.

“During that time, they were trying to wrangle back power and that was where the Chui family came in. He Lan Chang was impressed by my family’s background and potential so he chose to cooperate with us. He had been supporting and training us.

“After years of mutual hard work, I finally got the president’s seat with He Lan Chang’s help. I thought that was the beginning of nirvana for me, and life would be smooth sailing. How wrong I was, because that was the beginning of my nightmare.

“After I got selected, He Lan Chang started assigning me missions and the few initial ones were still within my acceptable range. However, the missions slid closer and closer to illegality after a not very long period of time. For example, he wanted me to cover up some of his family’s criminal activities, help get grants for him using my power, and assign his people into important government departments...

“It was a vicious cycle because the more I helped him, the more evidence I was giving him to use against me. It was like a swamp, the more I struggled, the faster and deeper I sank.”

Chui Qian sighed. Xinghe could see that this was a man of conscience and the illegal activities He Lan Chang had been forcing on him had taken its toll. However, he was trapped within this prison he had created for himself. This was the Chui family’s choice from the beginning; they had signed a deal with the devil, so they would have to live with it!

However, Chui Qian could no longer allow this malignant tumor called the He Lan family to continue sucking the life out of Country R, so he had been collecting damaging information on the He Lan family behind their back.

He planned to release all of the information once he retired or was forced into retirement. He hoped that the information he collected would be enough to destroy the He Lan family!

Then, Chui Qian planned to commit suicide to repent for the sins he had wrought on his beloved country.

Chapter 770: Launch Centre

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Of course, he was afraid that he would be exposed by the He Lan family before then and they would prop him up as the sacrificial lamb. That was why there was record of the engagement between He Lan Qi and Chui Ying in his files. He needed to show the intricate ties between the Chui family and He Lan family. He was prepared to die together with them. If he was to burn in flames, he would make sure the He Lan family burned in hell together with him.

However, when He Lan Chang forced the ultimatum on him, the evidence he gathered was still not enough to implicate the He Lan family. If Xinghe had not descended like an angel to save him, the Chui family and he would have ended up as another sacrifice in the He Lan family's evil plot.

He sighed in relief once more, because finally, everything was over...

Chui Qian did not have any hesitation to reveal the criminal things that he had done for He Lan family because he believed they should have gathered those evidence on him by now. Furthermore, Xinghe had He Lan Qi on her side so he would have told her everything about him. Therefore, he had no reason to hide his dirty laundry and told them everything that he knew.

Xinghe's party listened to him patiently. They did not show any emotion and did not seem to judge him in any way.

"You mentioned the He Lan family is overseeing Country R's first satellite launching center, correct?" Xinghe asked.

Chui Qian nodded. "That's right, that place is filled to the brim with their people. However, since the country is not that focused on space travel, to my knowledge, the site is basically half-abandoned."

"But He Lan Chang's men are still there." Xinghe pointed out the anomaly directly.

Chui Qian was curious. “That’s right, they are still there for some reason. Actually, I have been wondering about that as well. Why would they stay on at a half-abandoned base? Even though the base still fires off a few satellites every year, they should be useless to the He Lan family. Probably, they wish to get more information using those satellites, but the satellites fired from that base are all expired or have defects, the base should bring no benefits to them. It might have been something several decades ago, but now, it should have been a dilapidated site, forgotten by most.”

“Can we go visit that launching center?” Xinghe asked.

Chui Qian shook his head. “Unlikely because you have to get He Lan Chang’s permission to go anywhere near it. There are plenty of security measures to go through and the place still has the He Lan family’s members looking over it, so it is not easy to gain entry.”

Xinghe and Mubai looked at each other and the message was communicated wordlessly. Something must be wrong with that satellite-launching center!

Even Chui Qian was brought to see how suspicious the site was after the analysis.

He said solemnly, “The base definitely has its own secrets like their orphanage. The news about that abandoned paralyzed child, I have also had my own men conduct an investigation and they found out the children at the orphanage are all very weird. However, they are unable to pinpoint what is so curious about them. I meant to investigate further but He Lan Chang found a few unfortunate souls to shoulder the blame, and since I was under his control, I had no choice but to let the incident go past quietly.”

“Not abandoned but destroyed,” Xinghe said suddenly.

Chui Qian was shocked. “Destroyed, what do you mean by that?”

Xinghe smiled bitterly. “They were going to take the child to the crematorium to be burnt.”

Chui Qian was stunned beyond words!

The cruel truth sent chills down his spine and he shivered involuntarily.

Chapter 771: Thankful For You

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“This was not their first victim. Therefore, we have to investigate deeper into this orphanage and satellite-launching center. I suspect that the He Lan family is plotting something huge,” Xinghe said. Chui Qian felt chilled by her every word.

“A huge scheme?” Chui Qian was shocked by this revelation. “What kind of scheme? What else do you all know?”

Xinghe shook her head. “I cannot reveal that information for now because there are too many things that we do not know. After some more confirmation, I will definitely tell you everything because we will need your help to completely destroy this massive family. Relying on He Lan Qi alone is not going to accomplish something as massive as that.”

Chui Qian then realized, the scariest thing about the He Lan family was not He Lan Chang but the massive size of the family itself!

Over the past few decades, the He Lan family had seeped into every corner of the country like an untreatable disease. Removing He Lan Chang would only offer a temporary respite, it would not remove the He Lan tumor completely. If anything, He Lan Chang’s demise would only tip them off and make them tighten up security. Therefore, He Lan Chang’s incident must be kept a secret!

“Then, we must not let the truth about He Lan Chang leak out ...” Chui Qian opened his mouth to say but before he could finish, Xinghe nodded with understanding.

“We are clear about that or else why would we choose to deal with He Lan Chang in private?”

The way Chui Qian looked at Xinghe became different. “Miss Xia, you have impressed me with the intricacy of your plan again. Thankfully, this time you guys are around, or else Country R would be in deep trouble!”

“What does Mr. President mean by that?” Mubai who had been silent all along asked.

Chui Qian explained immediately, “My original plan was to expose the He Lan family’s criminal evidence today and choose to die together with them. I can only imagine the consequences from that. The He Lan family would definitely fight it to the death and since they have their people all over the country, if this was brought to light, the consequences would be unimaginably bad...”

Xinghe frowned. “Thankfully you did not do that.”

Chui Qian also realized how big of a mistake that would have been. “Indeed, thankfully you have managed to save me and save this country.”

Or else, instead of saving his country, he would have sent his country into absolute chaos and he would have been branded a traitor. By now, Chui Qian was completely impressed with Xinghe’s party. In the future, he swore to help them with everything he could, and he believed that, with their cooperation, they would one day bring down the whole He Lan family. He would not give up until he saw this vicious tumor removed from his beloved country!

This was his only chance at redemption and his responsibility. After bidding Chui Qian farewell, Xinghe and Mubai continued their analysis in the car. After a long discussion, they decided to use the orphanage as their opening. Naturally, this required cooperation from He Bin.

What He Bin needed to do was to announce to the public that He Lan Chang had suffered a stroke and he would have to take over the family business. He Lan Chang’s illness was quickly spread across country, but no one could tell for sure how he actually was.

He Bin assumed He Lan Qi’s identity to help with Xinghe’s plan. Since he was raised in the He Lan household, he had insider knowledge about many different things so assuming He Lan Qi’s identity was a non-issue.

Therefore, no one was suspicious. During this process, He Bin found out about many things the He Lan family had been doing behind the scenes. He collected this valuable information and passed it all onto Chui Qian.

Chui Qian's responsibility was to undo the influence He Lan Chang had sown into these few sectors and departments!

Translator's Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

As many of you know, we have a discord server for you guys to ask for spoilers, point out our mistakes, and complete missions to earn bonus chapters: <http://discord.gg/KnPsmjU>

One of this week's missions is to get 120 responses in this favorite character poll: <http://poal.me/8catmu>

Also, we've collated the fanfics from the server, so do check it out if you have time!

<https://www.webnovel.com/book/10382875106024805>

If you want us to publish one of your 100CEO related fanfics, join the server and send us a message!

Chapter 772: Take Over the Orphanage

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's responsibility was to find out more about Project Galaxy. Everyone mobilized to complete their mission. The public had no idea about all these changes that were happening behind their backs. No one could have known the effect this mission would have on the future of Country R and even the whole world!

...

After a few days of investigations, Xinghe's party had confirmed both the orphanage and launching base were equally suspicious. This was because after the news about He Lan Chang's stroke got out both the orphanage manager and launching base manager contacted He Bin immediately.

After they confirmed He Lan Chang's illness with him, they enquired when he would be able to take over for his father. He Bin played his part well and answered he could take over anytime.

First, He Bin decided to deal with the orphanage.

Xinghe changed her clothes, hairstyle, and found herself a pair of large-rimmed glasses to assume the disguise of He Bin's secretary. She would be following him to the orphanage. Sam's group, on the other hand, would disguise as He Bin's bodyguards.

Due to the uniqueness of Mubai's identity, many people from Country R knew him so he did not tag along. Instead, he was responsible for monitoring the video feed that was connecting to the hidden camera sewn within Xinghe's jacket lapel.

When they arrived at the orphanage, the manager, Huang Deqing, personally came out to welcome them. Deqing was already in his sixties but he was still spirited and had maintained himself well physically. He wore a straight suit and his eyes that scanned them were cautious and dark.

However, he immediately broke into a friendly smile when he saw He Bin. This went to show how much he trusted He Lan

Qi. Of course, the fact that He Lan Qi was now the head of the He Lan family played a huge role as well.

“Young Master, why would suddenly Old Master be struck down by stroke?” After some friendly greetings with He Bin, Deqing posed this question with a frown.

He Bin’s mouth turned upside down from self-blame and sadness. “This is all my fault! It is because he was too worried about me that he was unable to rest well during that period. As you know, his health has been deteriorating over the years, and I am afraid that the recent fatigue and exhaustion have pushed him over the edge.”

It was a believable excuse. After all, many unfortunate things did happen to the He Lan family during that period. He Lan Qi was detained and He Lan Chang had been searching for ways to rescue him every single day, that was common knowledge. It was not hard to imagine that he would fall ill from overexertion. Furthermore, it was not like He Lan Chang was still in his prime, sickness was to be expected at his age.

Deqing sighed and said, “Old Master is the pillar that holds our He Lan family up. His sudden illness definitely worries us all.”

He Bin mimicked He Lan Qi and said politely, “I too am worried about Father, but this does not mean that I will allow his effort for the He Lan family to go to waste. I will help him carry on his torch. Uncle Huang, I will have to depend on you for help in the future.”

Deqing’s face split into a smile when he heard that. “Young Master, please do not worry. We will definitely assist you to the best of our ability. We will not disappoint Old Master and will complete the noble mission that he has given us! This is for the sake of our religion, our faith!”

There was a fanatical fervor in Deqing’s eyes when he mentioned religion and faith. Xinghe captured this reaction and noted this confusion. She needed to go find out later what this faith he was talking about was.

He Bin played to his tune and exclaimed feverishly, “That’s right, this is our faith! However, I am afraid I will not be able to fill into my father’s shoes. Uncle Huang, why don’t you tell me everything in details today, and guide me on my path? What should I do to make sure everything is done to my father’s standard?”

“No problem, follow me!” Deqing nodded in feverish succession.

Translator’s Thoughts

Lonelytree Lonelytree

As many of you know, we have a discord server for you guys to ask for spoilers, point out our mistakes, and complete missions to earn bonus chapters: <http://discord.gg/KnPsmjU>

One of this week’s missions is to get 120 responses in this favorite character poll: <http://poal.me/8catmu>

Also, we’ve collated the fanfics from the server, so do check it out if you have time!

<https://www.webnovel.com/book/10382875106024805>

If you want us to publish one of your 100CEO related fanfics, join the server and send us a message!

Chapter 773: All the Secrets from the Orphanage

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Deqing led them to a house that was within the orphanage's compound. When they arrived at the door, Deqing ordered Xinghe and the rest to wait for them outside.

“Uncle Huang, this is my secretary, she is someone trustworthy,” He Bin said matter-of-factly as he waved at Xinghe.

Deqing hesitated. “But I have not seen her before.”

He Bin smiled. “Uncle Huang, you know my father, you will never really know all the people under his employment. She has been my secretary for years, but I believe you two did not have the opportunity to meet before. But do not worry, she is definitely trustworthy!”

Deqing understood what he meant, He Lan Chang was a man of many secrets and since He Lan Qi vouched for Xinghe, he chose to trust Xinghe.

“Fine, you can come with us,” he told Xinghe.

Xinghe nodded respectfully but there was no trace of emotions in her eyes. Her mind was completely shut off from the outside world. Deqing nodded approvingly when he noticed this. This girl does look like someone Old Master He Lan would hire for his son.

The bodyguards were asked to wait outside the door. Xinghe followed them fearlessly into the house. There were many buildings within the orphanage compound and this was one of the most inconspicuous of them all. Therefore, she was surprised when she realized this building led to a secluded underground basement. To enter, one had to key in a series of passwords. Deqing carefully entered the password, not even He Bin had the opportunity to see what he keyed in.

After the door to the basement was opened, he said respectfully, “Young Master, everything down there are all the secrets from our orphanage. Please follow me.”

Deqing walked in front of them to lead the way. Xinghe and He Bin snuck a quick look at each other before following behind him. The moment they entered, the basement door closed automatically.

He Bin and Xinghe tensed involuntarily and they sped up slightly to keep up with Deqing. The room was dark, and after a few steps, Deqing suddenly clapped to activate the sound-operated lighting system.

The room lit up and Xinghe and He Bin were granted a clear view of the basement...

The place was nothing unique. It was filled from wall to wall with a series of bookshelves, giving it a look of a private library. The shelves were filled with innumerable files. Other than that, the décor of the place was posh and futuristic, thanks to all the latest devices. Standing on the floor that gleamed like glass, Xinghe and He Bin felt like they were within a futuristic library. However, they were careful to not let any surprise show on their faces.

Since He Bin said nothing, Deqing introduced the place actively, “Young Master, this place has housed all the records from the orphanage for many years. I am sure Old Master did not tell you much about the orphanage, but you should at least know the purpose of our orphanage is to select and train talents for that place.”

He Bin nodded easily. “Naturally.”

Deqing continued, “According to the rules laid down by your forefathers, you are supposed to come here to do an inventory and checking on everything annually. But do not worry about the workload because I have been taking constant care of them and they are arranged systematically.”

“The files on everyone are here?” He Bin asked. He did not forget about Xinghe’s mother. The question was for her sake.

Deqing shook his head. “Unfortunately, not everyone. The files from the first ten years have been destroyed, the files here are from after that.”

“All been destroyed?” He Bin enquired with absolute caution.

Deqing nodded. “Yes, every single file. That year our secret was almost exposed, so your grandfather made the decision to destroy everything, not leaving even a morsel of information or else we wouldn’t have survived to this day.”

Chapter 774: The Farm

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“Due to that lesson, we are now more cautious about our security. As you have seen, our security system is top notch. Take for example this basement that houses all the secrets of this orphanage, if anyone breaks into here, the internal electronic sensor will activate to destroy all the data here! Only I know the password to this room and if anything happens to me, this room will be destroyed, and the filing process will begin anew,” Deqing said proudly.

He Bin followed his suit and said proudly, “Indeed, our He Lan family is good at everything, especially security.”

“That’s right, but from this moment onwards, these secrets are all open to you. Young Master, even though the Old Master’s sudden illness is indeed unfortunate, I would still like to congratulate you for having taken over the whole He Lan family!”

This Deqing was a slimy character. He Lan Chang was still on his death bed and he had already started to suck up to He Lan Qi. However, this played to He Bin’s advantage because it would make his mission easier.

“Uncle Huang, can I look through the files here as I like?” He Bin asked politely.

Deqing nodded. “Of course you can! Of all the He Lans, only you and I have that right.”

He Bin nodded in return and pulled out a file to read. Xinghe did not move forward, she stood her ground, playing her part well. He Bin continued to flip through several files, but he did not study them closely. However, the camera in his tie did record everything down.

After going through some more files, He Bin suggested they go pay the orphans a visit. After all, the orphans were the focus of their visit. Deqing had no issue with that and led them out of the basement. Xinghe followed them and was given a tour of the orphanage compound.

If she did not know it beforehand, Xinghe would not have known this place was an orphanage, because it looked more like a livestock farm!

Along the way, Deqing was proudly explaining to them how they had been rearing these orphans. There was a streamlined process to the way they cultivated these orphans.

For newly accepted babies, they would give them protein packs recommended by nutritionists and the babies would be given daily physical inspection. Half a year later, those with great physical results would be selected to enter focus training. Those who scored well on both physical and mental tests would be handpicked to join one-on-one training...

They were filtering out the babies to get the crème of the crop. Utilizing different grading systems, the orphans would be separated into many different categories. The highest grade contained orphans who were clever and showed loyalty to the He Lan family.

Of course, there was opportunity for low grade orphans to rise to higher grades as long as they showed improvement later on or showed exceptional talent in a particular field.

The high-grade orphans received the best treatment, best accommodation, best food, and best education. The treatment worsened as the grade went down. The lowest grade orphans would be eliminated, but it was a closed secret as to what would happen to them.

Therefore, these children had to fight for their survival from a young age. Under this cruel and extreme system, all of them pushed themselves daily. They spent their every second thinking about ways to improve, to study, to be the best they could be.

Chapter 775: Such Ruthlessness

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This meant that the children had no childhood, or rather, their childhood was not one of happiness since it was filled only with learning and competition. There were many kids who they saw along the way and they were all less than six years old.

Weirdly, every child had overgrown their usual height for their age, but that was not the scariest giveaway. That would be their eyes. Every child should have a face of innocence, but these kids, there was barely any life in their eyes. There was no crying or laughing, antics common to children. Even a three-year-old was scarily mature and adult-like...

Whenever Xinghe met their dark, soulless eyes and expressionless faces, her heart tightened. Even He Bin had a hard time believing the things that they were looking at. However, Deqing rattled on happily. There was a hint of pride in his voice, like these children were the best of his experiment results. Occasionally, he would also allude to 'that place'.

From his words, Xinghe and He Bin understood the best orphans would be sent to that place. The requirements of that place were exceptionally high, only the best orphans would be accepted, the rest would be shown the door. Therefore, to raise the perfect orphans, Deqing had been perfecting his cultivation techniques for over a decade. The techniques that he invented were increasingly cruel and extreme...

He even managed to use technology to induce growth in the children's brains. He would use electromagnetic waves and the like to excite the growth of brain cells in the children's skulls...

"Uncle Huang, using this technology, how many geniuses has our orphanage managed to cultivate?" He Bin asked excitedly, but under his apparent excitement was a cruel iciness that was bubbling.

Deqing missed the emotion in his eyes and laughed. "It is not that I want to toot my own horn, but over the years, I have

managed to create over twenty perfect geniuses!”

“So many? Uncle Huang sure is a genius himself!” He Bin praised.

Deqing was feeling extra smug himself. It was hard to get their hands on natural geniuses, but through his method, he had managed to gift the He Lan family about twenty geniuses, he was instrumental to whatever sick plot the He Lan family was cooking.

“Have you tried increasing the number of geniuses?” He Bin asked.

Deqing replied, “Of course we have, but most of the kids cannot survive the inducement, their brains go into paralysis and shut down. We directly remove useless seeds like these.”

“Indeed, keeping them alive would be a waste of food, it is better than they return to the earth itself,” He Bin said with a smirk, but there was a shred of deep hatred in his eyes. There was never a moment where he hated the He Lan family more than this!

He was raised as an assassin ever since he was young, and he thought his life was already cruel. Who knew he should be thankful that he was not sent to this orphanage because they had it even worse than him?

The cruelest thing was how they treated the so-called useless seeds. Once the children had outlived their uses, what awaited them was a fiery death! That crematorium must have consumed many an innocent young life.

No one knew the He Lan family had been doing such unscrupulous thing. He Bin suddenly felt deeply ashamed that he had the He Lan family’s blood flowing in his veins. Facing this situation that opened before him, he felt extremely suffocated.

He was a trained killer and even he was deeply affected by this news, so he was worried about Xinghe. However, when he snuck to look at her, he realized there was no apparent display of emotion on her face. She was like a robot quietly following

them, she was so quiet in fact, she could easily melt into the background.

Her eyes were same color of darkness, there was no ripple of any emotion. She maintained eternally unreadable.

Witnessing this, He Bin secretly reminded himself to maintain his composure and to not show any signs of weakness or suspicion.

Chapter 776: The Last Child

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

After touring most of the cultivation process, Deqing finally brought them to meet a batch of kids. This batch was the newly selected, the best seeds. However, there were only five of them and they were all boys.

“There are no girls?” He Bin enquired with curiosity.

Deqing shook his head. “No, girls that pass the selection are few and in between. Most of them are boys. Young Master, do not underestimate them because of their age, they are all little geniuses.”

“Is that so? How about a little show and tell then?” He Bin mimicked He Lan Qi and suggested with a polite smile. Deqing immediately had a few boys show off their talents. To Xinghe and He Bin’s surprise, all of them were computer experts!

Not only that, they were familiar with many other different fields as well. Some of them were good with engineering, others chemistry, mathematics, and physics...

However, they were expressionless when they rattled off their knowledge. These boys were like old learners or emotionless computers. Even though the knowledge they showcased were not extremely esoteric, it did give a glimpse into their unnatural learning capability and potential.

Looking at these little, cute faces devoid of their innocence and forced into becoming learning machines did not impress He Bin and Xinghe in any way. There was only a heaviness in their heart.

This was especially so when they saw the last child who was swaying from left to right when he showed them his knowledge in chemistry. Initially, he gritted his teeth and tried his best to hide his discomfort. However, his sickness was too serious that he was barely hanging on near the end.

He almost fainted and collapsed when Deqing launched himself forward to grab at the boy and demanded angrily, “Are

you sick?”

“No, no, I am not sick!” This was the first time the boy showed any emotion and it was one of fear. It seemed like he was greatly afraid of something.

Deqing ignored the boy and ordered the other boys coldly, “Get the workers now and bring him to the doctors!”

“Yes!” The other kids seemed to be afraid that they would be contaminated and scurried off like a crowd of pigeons. The sick boy paled considerably, and his slender body could not stop shaking.

His pair of eyes were filled with fear as he begged, “Manager, I am really not sick. This is just a flu, I will get better soon, I promise...”

Deqing harrumphed coldly and glared viciously at the boy. “Have you forgotten the orphanage’s rules? You must tell us if you have fallen ill, the fact that you have hidden that means that you have broken the rules!”

“I am sorry, I, I thought I would recover very soon... Manager, I am really sorry, I will not dare to do that again...” The barely 5-year-old boy had tears in his eyes from sheer terror. However, he did not dare to weep openly, instead, the pearl-like tears fell from his dark eyes silently.

Facing such a lovely and pitiable child, Deqing did not soften, in fact, his face had only gotten darker.

“I have said many times, no one is above the rules! Do you think there is still a next time for you? If I do not punish lawbreakers like you, how am I going to run this orphanage?” Deqing roared in the boy’s face before slapping him hard right on his face. The force of his slap sent the little boy collapsing right to the ground.

Xinghe and He Bin were shocked by this, they did not expect Deqing to commit to his cruelty so suddenly.

When the boy raised his head and they saw the red welt that immediately surfaced on his thin face, there was a deep current of acrimony at the bottom of their eyes.

Chapter 777: Necessary Evil

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Deqing had stepped way over the line!

The little boy was obviously still dizzy from the physical assault. His face was contorted from pain and discomfort.

“Stand up!” Deqing ordered vehemently, his order seemed to come from the bowels of hell itself.

The boy was visibly shaken. He tried to stand up, but the sudden movement made him vomit all over the place.

Witnessing this, Deqing frowned with disgust. However, he quickly turned to tell He Bin respectfully, “Young Master, it is getting unhygienic here, so why don’t you go wait at the office? I will come meet you after I deal with this useless seed.”

“How do you plan to deal with him?” He Bin asked coldly. Deqing thought He Lan Qi was showing dissatisfaction toward this boy. He quickly answered, “Naturally, we will perform a physical inspection on his body, nothing will happen if the results come back fine, but if it is a serious illness, we will have no choice but to give him up.”

The boy who was deep in the throes of trauma had absolute terror flashed in his eyes when he heard the term ‘give up’.

“No, no, manager, I am really fine...” The little boy probably used every ounce of energy he could collect in his body to stand up and cried agitatedly, “Manager, no, please, I am really fine. Look at me, I...”

Before he could finish, the boy fainted and crumbled to the floor, he was unconscious after that.

Deqing cursed vehemently, “What are the people doing? How can they not discover an illness this serious? How could I show my face if this kind of seed was sent to that place?”

He Bin immediately latched onto the words in his sentence. He asked normally, “How many of them are getting sent over this time?”

Deqing explained, "Only the five you saw but looks like we will have to minus one!"

"Perhaps he can still be saved. Uncle Huang, we must not waste any useful seeds, they are not easy to come by," He Bin reminded him softly.

Deqing smiled. "Naturally, if he is fine, then we will definitely not give up on him, but if his illness is too serious, then we will have no other choice."

The moment Deqing finished, two doctors rushed over. When he saw them, Deqing ordered, "Bring him to the inspection room and remember to be thorough."

"Yes, sir!"

The little boy was immediately carried away and Deqing led He Bin them to another spot.

He Bin said with authority, "Uncle Huang, this is my first day taking over these things so after you have the result on that kid's illness, remember to inform me as well. I do not wish for this kind of thing to happen the day I take over the business."

"Of course." Deqing understood this was because a new broom sweeps clean. He Lan Qi had shown no explicit interest in the orphanage's dealings before, he usually left them to their own device, so this was the only explanation Deqing could come up with to make logic of He Bin's orders.

He Bin did not want to overdo it lest it raised Deqing's suspicion, so he added with a smile, "With that out of the way, can Uncle Huang lead me to see some place else? I wish to learn more from Uncle Huang, I feel like Uncle Huang has more to teach."

"It is the He Lan family's good fortune that Young Master is so willing to learn," Deqing caught the opportunity to endear himself to He Bin.

He Bin laughed and said humbly, "It is because Uncle Huang is so experienced that I am able to learn so much. Therefore, Uncle Huang, you must teach me everything you know."

“Young Master, you flatter me. Of course, I will reveal my secrets to Young Master for the sake of the He Lan family and our cause...” After being praised, Deqing started to get smug and let his guard down. Furthermore, since He Lan Qi was going to be his future boss, he had no reservations.

Therefore, Xinghe and He Bin were exposed to more ‘necessary’ evils committed by the orphanage...

For the sake cultivating the best and most loyal seed, the orphanage would do everything in their capability to train them. Needless to say, most of the training was harsh and inhuman...

Chapter 778: Absolute Loyalty

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Not one trace of imperfection was allowed to show in the children, especially disobedience. The moment one of them broke the rules, torture-like punishment awaited them!

They trained these orphans like dogs, instilling absolute obedience into their growing minds. The rowdy kids would be punished, and after enough punishment, the kids would have lost their usage and thus be disqualified and disposed of. The kind of disposal method was never revealed to the children, they only knew some of their friends would suddenly disappear overnight.

All the children were incredibly young and none of them had the ability to survive and look after themselves. To prevent the fate of abandonment, they would transform into loyal dogs and would answer to every order the adults gave them.

Even if internally they were not satisfied, none of them dared voice it aloud, afraid that it would reach the adults' ears. Therefore, when they grew up, with years of obedience training drilled into them, they would eventually become mindless human beings, the perfect tools.

Of course, the children that had fallen seriously ill would be given up. It was why the little boy today was so afraid and had hidden his sickness. He was so afraid when he was found out because he was deeply scared of being abandoned.

None of the adults working there saw the children as children, instead they were treated more like livestock. Unruly children would be tortured and even failing to live up to their expectations would get punished as well. The smallest mistake would get punished.

None of the children knew about the world beyond the walls of the orphanage. In their little minds, they thought this was what childhood was like, and every child in the world lived lives similar to theirs. In fact, they did not even know there was an outside world; the orphanage was their world.

The fact that they had managed to completely brainwash these children was Deqing's most proud accomplishment in his mind. This was because that place required people with absolute obedience...

Deqing mentioned he learned this management method from his father. When He Lan family opened this ironically named Angel Orphanage, it was Deqing's father who looked after these children.

When He Bin heard this, his eyes shuddered slightly and asked casually, "This mean that the first batch of orphans Uncle Huang's father raised must have been the best."

Deqing said proudly, "Naturally, according to rumors, in the first batch of seeds raised my father was extremely lucky because there were numerous geniuses. However, none of us knew what happened after that, in fact, we are until now unclear what happened to them."

"When will this latest batch of seeds be transferred to the place?" He Bin changed the subject.

"In a few days, we have already arranged everything."

He Bin nodded and said, "Why don't I tag along?"

Deqing was shocked and He Bin explained with a smile, "I am to take over that place as well."

"Oh, sure, then why not? When the time comes, I will inform Young Master, and Young Master can come with us."

"Thank you, Uncle Huang."

The moment He Bin said that, Deqing's phone suddenly rang.

He answered the phone. His face darkened after he continued the conversation for some time. He said into the phone, "Continue the observation, if he does not improve, I am sure you all know what to do."

After he hung up, he explained to He Bin, "Young Master, the boy from before has been detected to suffer from encephalomeningitis and I do not think he will be able to recover."

“Is that so? Such sad news,” He Bin commented lightly.

“Yes, it is indeed very sad!” Deqing agreed with him, but he was only feeling sad for the resources that had been wasted to cultivate this seed.

Chapter 779: Kill Them

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Deqing flared up again thinking about how this little boy's reluctance to tell the truth caused him the loss of a good seed.

“Young Master, we cannot keep this child any longer! He might relapse even if he is cured, we should just...” Deqing then drew a slash across his throat.

“Uncle Huang always takes care of these ruined seeds with such expedience?” He Bin lowered his gaze to avoid showing Deqing the iciness in them.

Deqing nodded smugly. “Naturally, we do not have time to take care of all these children. If they are no longer of any use to us, then why should we continue to waste time and resources on them?”

“But wouldn't this be a giant waste, in case...”

“Young Master, your compassion is showing!” Deqing said with a cold smirk, “At the end of the day, these children are nothing but tools for us to use. Furthermore, being abandoned is honestly not the worst thing that could happen to them.”

He Bin immediately darkened his feature. He concluded coldly, “You are right, but this boy has shown great potential and we could always use more seeds like him, so we must try our best to cure him for now, we will discuss it later when it fails. Uncle Huang, do help me arrange the trip there today, I want to resolve the kinks of taking over as soon as possible.”

The authority in He Bin's voice was heavy and not to be overlooked. It silenced Deqing who could only manage to nod obediently.

After that, He Bin left with Xinghe. He did not want to stay at that place for one more minute.

After the orphanage was nothing but a dot in the background, their real emotions finally exploded. Ali and the rest who were ordered away earlier arrived to fetch them in the car.

After they got in, Ali asked Xinghe hurriedly, “Xinghe, was that real? Is the orphanage that insane?”

Even though they were not allowed to follow deeper into the orphanage, they did hear everything through their ear-mics. They shivered with disbelief and anger when they heard Deqing listed off his various proud accomplishments. They could not imagine how Xinghe and He Bin, who saw everything in person, could hold it in.

Xinghe nodded crisply. “Yes, it is all real.”

Sam cursed angrily, “F*ck, are these people still human beings? Thankfully, I did not follow or else I would have ruined our cover by strangling them on the spot!”

“Back in Country Y, I thought the children there already had it worse, but it is even more horrendous in this orphanage! They treat these children like livestock and dogs since they were still babies, do these people still have any trace of humanity left in them?” Wolf said with deprecation.

“Shall we kill them?” Cairn went straight to the point.

He Bin loosened his tie and replied, “If we do that, it would raise too much suspicion.”

“Xinghe, what do you think?” Ali looked at Xinghe with anticipation in her eyes. They could not wait to snap Huang Deqing’s neck. This kind of monster, if allowed to live, would only bring harm to more innocent children, so he would have to be removed.

Xinghe did not answer immediately. She replied after a short pause, “Give me some time to figure out a plan.”

“Okay!” Ali and the rest were happy. As long as Xinghe was willing to deal with Deqing, they would be satisfied. This was because her plan would definitely work.

The car continued on the path for a little while longer before they met up with Mubai. Mubai had his men hiding around there, just in case danger befell Xinghe’s party. He wanted to be close enough to go in and save them.

Xinghe exited He Bin's car and got into Mubai's car. As she closed the door, Mubai passed her a glass of red wine.

"Here, this will make you feel better," he told her in a whisper. His voice was full of concern.

Chapter 780: Dirty My Own Hands

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe was startled because she was indeed not feeling well...

She did not show her feelings, but she was suffocated by the disgusted, noxious feeling in her heart. Xinghe accepted the glass of wine and finished it in one gulp.

Mubai stared at her and asked, "One more?"

"Thank you, but that is enough." Xinghe shook her head, she was afraid too much alcohol would cloud her mind.

Furthermore, that one glass had already gone a long way.

Mubai retrieved the glass back from her hands and said in a low growl, "What do you plan to do?"

Xinghe did not answer but commented lightly, "Did you see those children's eyes? They are soulless and empty. They are still so young, but their souls have already been siphoned out."

"Yes, I did notice that." Mubai nodded. He had seen everything through the hidden camera. It was why he understood why Xinghe's mood would be affected. She might look unapproachable and aloof on the surface, but deep down she was an emotional and melancholic person. She would be ruthless against her enemies but showed kindness towards the weak. She was clear about what she loved and hated. Mubai understood her well.

"But this is not even the cruelest thing they did. The cruelest is there is no margin for mistakes, once they are deemed unworthy, there is only death," Xinghe said coldly.

"Orphanage, is that not a home for orphans? But this Angel Orphanage is nothing but a hell that has claimed so many innocent lives!"

"We could kill all of them if you want," Mubai said directly.

"Say the word and a river of blood will run."

"No, I want to do this myself." Xinghe shook her head with determination. This time she decided to dirty her own hands. She did not want to shield herself behind Mubai and become a woman who relied completely on her man.

As if reading her mind, Mubai grabbed her hands and said with a smirk, “Shall we join forces then?”

Xinghe looked at him and finally replied with a smile, “Sure.”

Mubai was overjoyed. Even if they were venturing into a dark hole, as long as he was with her, he was happy.

...

The situation inside the orphanage gave Xinghe’s party quite a shock. Ali’s group wanted to rush back to the orphanage to slaughter the bunch of animals after they saw the surveillance video.

“Are they even humans? How can they treat these children like dogs?” Ali demanded with pain and anger as she pointed at the children who was in the middle of training on screen. That shot incited anger in many other people in the room as well.

On the video, the children were arranged in a straight line and they were undergoing what could only be described as dog training. The whip-wielding teacher-cum-trainer was shouting out orders like heel, kneel, and jump. The children would perform the required order accordingly like the dogs that they were. The teacher suddenly had a crazy glint in his eyes, he ordered them to slap themselves ten times, and the children followed the order obediently...

The children were like wooden robots and followed the orders that were keyed into their brains. Even if the order was as pointless as slapping their own faces, they followed the order to the tee. The eyes of these children were empty and dull; the only thing on their mind was to accept the orders and nothing else.

Xinghe’s group had heard of their many brainwashing techniques but this was the first time they witnessed such ‘training’ in person. These children were supposed to be innocent and cute, deserving of love and care.

Therefore, it was incendiary watching the things this ‘orphanage’ was putting them through. However, this was only

the tip of the iceberg, as the video progressed, the anger level in the room only increased.

Chapter 781: My Business

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

These children were really no different from dogs...

The animals in the orphanage did not treat them as human beings but as puppies!

At some point, Sam and Ali felt themselves suffocating. They had never felt so uncomfortable and aggrieved before. It was like a great ball of fire had gathered in their chest, and if they did not let it out, it would burn them alive.

It affected more than them. It was hard for even Xinghe and He Bin, who had seen these visuals live, to see them once more, much less Sam's group who were more hot-blooded. Therefore, Sam's group could not stomach watching the video to the end.

"Xinghe, let's go kill them!" Ali roared with her eyes teary from anger and pain.

Sam and the boys' faces were drawn. Sam hissed, "We do not mind doing the deed ourselves, we will not implicate any of you! I cannot sit here and do nothing, let's go murder that bunch of bastards now and save those children!"

"That's right, we will do this ourselves and leave you guys out of it," Cairn said firmly. Wolf directly pulled out his handgun and started checking his ammo...

Noticing this, the rest of SamWolf did the same. All four of them were orphans raised in war-torn Country Y, they could empathize with these unfortunate kids the most. Whenever they came across an unlucky orphan, their hearts would squeeze from pain. How could parents bring themselves to abandon their innocent child?

Maybe the parents had their unspeakable difficulties, but this was even worse, this orphanage took them in and treated them so cruelly. What wrong had these children done? Nothing!

If God was going to stand silent as this atrocity happened, then they were going to help him exact justice. Even though it

might cost them their lives, they could not stand quiet and allow this cruelty to continue. They had to do something!

No one was going to stop them. They were ready in a matter of minutes; their impetuosity had stripped them of their patience and rationality. They failed to see how rashly they were acting.

“Everyone, calm down. You won’t be doing anyone any favors by rushing into things,” Xinghe reminded them softly.

Sam scoffed, “We cannot calm down anymore! Do not worry, we will not kill blindly, and we guarantee it will not mess up your plan.”

“Xinghe, this will be on us. It will be our responsibility so just leave us be,” Ali advised her. “I know we are acting a bit too rashly, but this is how we operate. We cannot allow this kind of cruelty to go on anymore; none of us can stomach this quietly. So even if this might cost us our lives, we have no regrets. All four of us are like this; it is why SamWolf has survived for so long. I thank you for trying to look out for us, but it is no use trying to change our mind.”

“That’s right, this is our business!” Wolf concluded.

Xinghe suddenly demanded in an authoritative voice, “What do you mean this is your business?”

Ali’s group was stunned because they did not expect such anger from her. Xinghe stood up and stared severely at them. “This is not your business, it is mine. It is because of me that we are here, this is my revenge, the search for my mother. Everything is related to me, so it is absolutely my business and how can I allow all of you to take this unnecessary risk for me? I am not saying we shall let them be. Sit down and listen to my arrangement, then you can decide whether you still want to rush in heedlessly or not.”

Ali’s group turned up a smile. “You already have a plan?”

Chapter 782: Intelligence Overload

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe nodded slightly.

“Xinghe, what’s your plan?” Ali asked excitedly. They were willing to listen to her arrangement because her plans had never failed. If she had come up with something, then they would not have to risk their lives recklessly.

Sam even promised, “No matter what your plan is, even if it involves a direct threat to our lives, we are willing to do it! Give the orders and we will do the rest.”

“That’s right, make use of us in any way you want,” Wolf added firmly. Witnessing their kindness and hot-bloodedness on full display, Xinghe did not have the heart to push them into a death mission. Of course, that was not her plan after all.

She smirked and said, “My plan does not involve any of that. Do not forget He Bin has taken control of the whole He Lan family.”

He Bin was startled, but he too was not that powerful to shut down the whole orphanage’s operation. Everyone else thought the same. Suddenly, Ee Chen piped up to say, “You want to have He Bin fire the orphanage’s manager?”

“That is impossible,” He Bin denied it outright. “The Huang family has been operating the orphanage for two generations now. The orphanage’s every secret is in their hands. They might be loyal to me on the surface, but if I do anything to harm this supposed mission, they will not hesitate to revolt against me.”

“There is no need to fire him, we only have to make him fall ill,” Xinghe said.

“Fall ill? How?” He Bin queried.

Mubai though understood Xinghe’s plan immediately. He looked at her and smiled. “You plan to make him fall ill with flu?”

Mubai chuckled, “It just so happens that a boy has fallen ill, and this will be the best cover up.”

Xinghe smiled in return. “That’s right, this is the perfect opportunity for us to make use of. Furthermore, we can use this to save all the children from the orphanage.”

“It will not only avoid Huang Deqing’s suspicion but can also solve everything without raising any uproar.”

“However, it will only be temporary.”

“That will not be a problem, the aim is to buy some time. Very soon, the whole problem will be permanently resolved.”

“That’s exactly right!” Xinghe nodded with a knowing smile.

Mubai responded with an equally meaningful smile. “This is a great plan, I support it fully. Furthermore, Lu Qi is still in Country R; it’s time for him to shine.”

“I agree, then we will proceed with this plan.”

“What plan?” Ali looked at them blankly. What are these two talking about?

Even He Bin and the rest were still lost in the dark.

“Do you still not understand even though we have basically spelled it out?” Mubai said as he scanned them with his gaze. Ali really wanted to give him an eye-roll. It was one thing for them to use their intelligence to smother each other with their love but now he was looking down on them? Was that really necessary?

However, they were incidentally less gifted in the intelligence area, at least compared to these two, so they could only nod helplessly.

Xinghe explained slowly and clearly, “Didn’t a boy fall sick today? We will figure out a way to make him fall ill with a contagious flu then that will be our reason to quarantine those close to him, like Huang Deqing and the many doctors and teachers from the orphanage and all the other orphans.”

“What happens next?” Ali continued asking.

Xinghe smiled and said, “When they are in quarantine, they will be lambs in our slaughterhouse, we can take care of those we need to take care of and let the innocent parties go.”

Now, they finally understood everything!

“Xinghe, you plan to deal with Huang Deqing when he is in quarantine? During quarantine, the children will have to be separated from the adults, since that is the accepted protocol and that will be the way for us to protect them from getting hurt during the process, right?” Ali asked to confirm.

“Indeed.” Xinghe nodded.

“Then, quickly contact Doctor Lu. We must start the operation as soon as possible,” Ali said excitedly, representing everyone else.

Chapter 783: Contagious Flu

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The plan was perfect because it did not even involve any risk. As they expected, Xinghe had given them the best solution, there was no problem that she could not solve. With the plan in place, Xinghe did not waste any time and contacted Lu Qi immediately.

After hearing everything, Lu Qi agreed to help easily. Creating a contagious flu was a walk in the park for him. Lu Qi was a crazed medical scientist; his collection of weird medicine and medicinal plants could shame most doctors. Of course, the contagion he created would not be cured by normal doctors in a short period of time.

With He Bin's help, Lu Qi managed to extract a contagion source from an animal.

“This kind of contagious flu will have the same symptoms as normal flu. It might look serious, but it is non-fatal and so far this strain of flu virus has not been documented in the public records yet so they will not be able to come up with an antidote any time soon,” Lu Qi said rather proudly before adding, “But do not worry because I know how to make the vaccine.”

“Have you tested it before?” Xinghe asked.

Lu Qi nodded. “Of course, I have tested it many times, I have even tested it on myself before.”

Ali's group was shocked by this discovery. His title, mad scientist had its reasons.

“Then, we will use this,” Xinghe said before turning to He Bin, “Do you dare take the risk?”

He Bin understood what she meant, she wanted him to be Patient Zero.

“Of course, I believe in Doctor Lu,” He Bin said without hesitation. Lu Qi had done something as crazy as planting his memories into He Lan Qi's brain so what was a little flu shot? Therefore, he was willing to take the risk. Furthermore, the

body was not his to begin with so taking this risk was nothing to him...

Just like that, Xinghe's plan began officially. He Bin soon contracted the disease. He started coughing and his body temperature was burning up. A few doctors came to do physical checking and they came to the same conclusion. He was suffering from a contagious flu, and he contracted it at the orphanage from the sick little boy!

To have a better handle of the situation, the doctors needed to have the sick child brought out from the orphanage to be quarantined and analyzed.

When Deqing was informed of this, he was shocked. "How can there be a contagious flu? None of the children here, not even the boy himself, show any signs of flu."

"The virus might still be latent in his body. No matter what, it is imperative that the kids are brought to the hospital to be checked. Manager Huang, please have all the people who have interacted with this boy recently brought here so we can conduct a quick inspection. That includes yourself, Manager Huang," said Xinghe, who was wearing a mask.

Deqing did not buy into her words easily. He did not believe there was a flu to begin with. However, after a quick confirmation with the He Lan family, who said He Lan Qi indeed had fallen ill with contagious flu, he finally believed it. In fact, he was afraid that he was already infected.

After everyone was gathered, Deqing was the first to have his blood drawn for analysis. Everyone had to do it...

Regarding the sick boy, Xinghe arranged for her men to take him away. He was the source of the contagion, so he had been quarantined. After all, the orphanage was filled with children, it would have been easy for the virus to spread if he was to stay.

He Bin personally called to remind Deqing that he was to not allow anything to happen to these children because they were the He Lan family's important assets, these important seeds must be protected!

Chapter 784: Bring Manager Huang to Quarantine

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Deqing knew the gravity of the situation and so cooperated fully. Even though the day had started to get dark, the orphanage was still chaotic. A miasma of anxiety filled the air. If a large scale contagious flu did spread through the orphanage, then their secret would be exposed. None of them would be saved from judgment even if they worked for the powerful He Lan family, therefore, all of them prayed that it was just a passing flu...

To everyone's surprise, after a long day of busying and hustling, Deqing suddenly started coughing. The first cough even caught himself by surprise. Like in a cartoon, the people around him all turned to look at him and took several steps back in unison!

"I..." Deqing opened his mouth to explain himself but was interrupted by more coughing.

Xinghe immediately ordered, "Men, take Manager Huang to quarantine for further inspection."

"Yes!" Still in their bodyguard disguise, Wolf and Sam in masks and gloves came to usher Deqing out of the room.

Deqing struggled in a panic, "Let me go, I am not sick! I... cough ..."

Xinghe said formally, "Manager Huang please cooperate. We must not let this flu continue to spread!"

After she said that, all of people there wished for Deqing to be hurriedly taken away. They were not going to sacrifice everything for one man even if that man was the manager. Thus, the helpless Deqing was escorted away.

Since the news of the contagious flu could not be publicized for their safety, the doctors Xinghe brought along changed one of the buildings at the orphanage into a quarantine center. No one was allowed to get close without permission. Of course, no one would want to get close willingly.

The rooms there were sterilized and isolated. There were guards posted in front of every quarantine room. Very soon, Deqing was hauled into one of the rooms. Not long after that, the center started to fill up...

Some of the children were patients as well. Initially, everyone thought the flu was nothing serious and Xinghe's group was making mountain out of molehill. However, after so many people were continuously sent into quarantine, the whole orphanage started to fret.

There were thirty workers and over two hundred orphans there. What if all of them were infected?

The result was the same, they would be exposed!

To prevent that from happening, the He Lan family cooperated fully and requested that everyone be quarantined. This was because if this flu was brought into the public eye by making headlines, then their secret would be exposed and the whole He Lan family would fall.

Therefore, even though plenty of workers voiced their dissatisfaction from being forcibly quarantined, they were no match for the He Lan family who wanted this thing to be resolved as quietly as possible.

Xinghe was He Lan Qi's personal assistant so she was the natural leader. Furthermore, none of the other He Lans dared to come to the orphanage because they were afraid of infection.

After they quarantined a certain number of people, a few doctors came to Xinghe with the 'advice' to separately quarantine children and adults. There was a valid reason behind this. Children had a weaker immune system to adults, so it was not beneficial for them to be quarantined in the same place as the adult patients. They would be infected way too easily. Therefore, the adults and children had to be separated.

Even those that showcased no symptoms had to stay for two days for observation.

All the children were kept in an isolated building. The building had many guards and not everyone was allowed entry.

Xinghe's group was the exception. Whenever Xinghe brought her people to check up on these children, she realized the kids were exceptionally obedient. That was not surprising because they had been brought up to only listen to orders and nothing else. Even at a highly tense time like this, they were still so painfully obedient.

Chapter 785: Deal with Certain People

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

However, Xinghe's group could still pick out the anxiousness in most of their eyes. Since they were taught from young to ask no questions and to follow orders, they did not voice their discomfort. Even when Xinghe's group called them for dinner, unlike normal children, there was no pushing or playing with food, everyone lined up orderly and started to eat like it was their mission to do so.

A child choked on his food, but he tried his best to not produce any sound. Xinghe spotted him and immediately walked towards him. The little boy immediately froze upon noticing she was walking near. His pair of anxious eyes watched her, afraid that he had done something wrong. He did not even dare to move an inch of his small frame.

To the child's surprise, Xinghe bent down to pass him a bottle of mineral water.

"Remember to wash it down if you are choking on food, okay?" she reminded him softly. Her tone was not extra gentle, but it felt like feather fluttering the child's ears. The little boy was shocked and accepted the water bottle carefully. He waited a second or two before taking a cautious sip of the water.

Xinghe knew how much these children were guarded against adults, so she did not spend time talking. She straightened up and prepared to leave.

"Will..." Suddenly, the boy opened his mouth to say. His voice was barely above a whisper. However, Xinghe heard him so she turned around curiously.

The boy met her eyes and after making sure she would not get angry, he asked cautiously, "Will we die?"

This time, his voice was a bit louder, in fact most of the kids around him heard him. Every one of them was particularly sensitive to sound, they reacted very fast to auditory stimuli. Therefore, his question caused many children to turn around to focus on Xinghe.

Facing so many empty yet somewhat scared pairs of eyes, Xinghe replied confidently, “No, all of you will be fine.”

She turned to leave after saying that, not knowing the massive effect it had on the children. The calm tone in her voice gave these kids something to hold on to, and perhaps for the first time in their lives, they felt warmth and kindness.

Honestly, they had no idea how to respond. They had no clue how to make sense of the warm and fuzzy feeling rising within them. They stared at Xinghe subconsciously as she walked away from them...

...

After settling everything, Xinghe’s group sighed in relief. Their plan was basically a success, there were no accidents or mistakes. It was finally time to deal with certain people!

Xinghe stood in the darkening night and her gaze was locked onto the quarantine center not far away. The iciness in her gaze was as dark as the night. Ali’s group who followed behind her asked excitedly, “Xinghe, is it time to make our move?”

“Yes, let’s go.” Xinghe then started to stride towards the quarantine center. Ali’s group quickly moved to fall behind her. Among them was Lu Qi who was carrying his medical bag. The bodyguards and doctors swarming the orphanage then had been handpicked by He Bin. They were He Lan Qi’s loyal followers. They would do what He Bin asked of them without questions.

For this operation, He Bin handed them over to Xinghe’s control. Xinghe’s group gained access to the quarantine center easily. Due to Deqing’s special identity, he had a room all to himself at the top of the building. He also had two doctors monitoring his illness at all times.

What he did not know was the whole quarantine center only housed him alone. Naturally, this arrangement was to facilitate Xinghe’s plan.

Chapter 786: Close Down the Orphanage

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's party soon reached the top floor. The two doctors who had been monitoring Deqing reported his condition to Xinghe. "Manager Huang's symptoms are getting more and more pronounced. After our analysis, we have confirmed that Manager Huang has indeed been infected."

Xinghe nodded and said softly, "The latest news from Young Master has said that the infected boy has just passed away and Young Master is not doing so well."

The faces of the doctors shifted slightly. "Then, does this not mean Young Master's and Manager Huang are..."

"Yes, we are not optimistic."

"Then, what should we do?" The two doctors started to worry. If this illness was allowed to spread, who knew how many deaths they might end up having on their hands.

"Miss Xia, we have to increase the size of the medical team. We cannot afford to let this contagious flu continue to spread, the consequences will be too dire!" one of them suggested seriously. The other doctor also agreed with the suggestion. Their small medical unit would not be able to contain a virus outbreak. They were also afraid that they would be infected themselves. However, the thing they were most afraid of was that the He Lan family would decide to wipe them all out and level the orphanage to keep their secrets from being exposed.

"Young Master will have his own arrangements, but temporarily, no one is allowed to leave the orphanage. The orphanage is officially on lockdown; no one is allowed to leak the news to the public or else..." Xinghe let the threat linger and it startled the two doctors. They had never had such a sharp gaze stare down at them before. She seemed to look into the dark depths of their souls.

However, the next second, Xinghe reverted to normal. "You two must be tired from a long shift, go and rest first. We will help take care of Manager Huang from now on and you two can join the rest and take care of the others."

“Yes, madam!” The two doctors were normal doctors, so they felt Xinghe’s arrangement was reasonable. After all, if something was to happen to someone as important as Manager Huang, the responsibility was not something both of them could bear.

After the two doctors left, Xinghe ordered Wolf and Cairn to stay guard outside the door as she and the rest pushed the door to Deqing’s sickbay open and walked in.

Deqing was coughing incessantly, lying on his bed. He was burning up with a fever and it was obvious that he was feeling incredibly uncomfortable. When he saw Xinghe them walk in, he immediately ordered, “Quick get me the medicine, if you fail to cure me... cough ... I will have the Young Master punish all of you... cough ...”

Ali could not help but laugh. “Even at a time like this, you still have the energy to threaten people.”

“Since he aims to threaten us, why don’t we kill him now to prevent him from ratting us out?” Sam smirked coldly.

Deqing seemed to realize the atmosphere in the room had changed and he widened his eyes to look at them in shock. The pairs of eyes that looked at him in return were weird and not really friendly...

A murderous aura permeated the air in the room and Deqing asked anxiously, “What are you people planning to do? I am your superior!”

“You are the one who threatened us first, we are only saving our hides,” Xinghe said softly.

Deqing immediately turned up a smile. “I was just kidding, why would I threaten you? Cough ... The high fever must have affected my mind... I misspoke earlier, and I apologize for that, so can you please figure out a way to save me now...”

Chapter 787: We Want Your Life

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“But we are not kidding with you.” Xinghe pulled off her mask to reveal a chilling smile. Ali and the rest did the same and stared at him with apparent unfriendliness.

Deqing sat up from anxiety and stared at them with caution. “What are you guys doing? I am the manager of this place, even Young Master does not dare lift a finger against me, if any of you dare to show me disrespect, Young Master will definitely...”

“He will definitely not find out,” Xinghe said coldly. “Huang Deqing, no one will find out what will happen to you here tonight.”

“What do you mean...” Deqing could not help but expose his fear.

“That means we are going to take your life.” Xinghe stared at him and practically spat out her words. Deqing widened his eyes from shock. Before he could react, Sam grabbed him and threw him off his bed.

Deqing crumbled to the floor in an ungraceful manner and his features were twisted from anger. “How dare you all treat me like this? Security, detain all of them!”

However, no matter how hard he yelled, no one came. Xinghe’s group was as collected as ever. This made Deqing fluster, he climbed up in a hurry and rushed towards the window.

Before he could reach the window though, he was pulled back by Sam. Ali stepped right on his chest, pinning him in place.

“Help, help, there are murderers here! Help!” Deqing yelled at the top of his lungs, but due to his fever, his voice was coarse and hard to understand. The more he yelled, the worse he sounded.

“Yelled enough already?” Ali added weight to her feet and it caused Deqing to cough some more, it sounded like he was going to cough his internal organs out.

After the coughs finally petered off, he glared at Xinghe's group with his pale face and demanded, "Why are you doing this to me? I have done nothing wrong by you lot; why are you treating me this way?"

"Indeed, you have done nothing wrong by us, but you have violated the most basic of human decency, we are representing the heavens and have come to give you your due punishment," Xinghe announced coldly.

Deqing finally understood what was happening. He asked in shock, "Is this because of the way I manage the orphanage?"

Xinghe smirked. "Do you really think you have done a good job managing it?"

"Everything I did, it was because Old Master He Lan ordered me to! I am just following his orders! We all work for the He Lan family so do not tell me your hands are squeaky clean," Deqing countered.

Xinghe nodded. "Indeed, our hands are dirty from taking care of human rubbish like yourself."

"Then who gave you people the right to deal with me?"

Deqing demanded, "If you are really that capable then go bring this up with Young Master or the whole He Lan family, I am just a pawn in their scheme, they are real masterminds!"

"That is why He Lan Chang is now a senile old man."

"What did you say?" Deqing was shocked, he looked at Xinghe with disbelief.

Xinghe stared coldly at him and repeated, "That is why He Lan Chang is now a senile old man."

"Old Master, this is your... Is it because of you people that Old Master is in his current state?" Deqing was not dumb, he happened on the truth almost instantly. Xinghe did not admit or deny, but from the way she said those things, it was not far away from the truth. Deqing really did not expect they would have the courage to really go after He Lan Chang.

Chapter 788: Revenge

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

He Lan villa was like a fortress and He Lan Chang always had a troop of bodyguards with him. He was already so careful, and they even managed to get to him, so how did they do that? Then, Deqing suddenly realized he had something more important to worry about.

Deqing stared rightly at Xinghe to ask, “Do you people plan to harm Young Master as well? Is this contagious flu your handiwork too?”

“Manager Huang certainly is a clever person, you have managed to correctly guess that as well,” Xinghe said with a faint smile.

Deqing’s face blanched. “So it is you people!”

“That’s right! But you have found that out a little bit too late,” Ali said with a wicked smile.

Deqing waved his hands frantically. “No, you cannot kill me, Young Master will definitely notice and be suspicious of my death, the He Lan family will never let you people go free!”

“Do you really think He Lan Qi has the time to care about your life or death?” Xinghe asked as she stared down at him. Deqing then realized He Lan Qi was struggling with the illness himself. If they were going to deal with He Lan Qi, would they forgive someone less important like him?

“Who are you people? Why are you doing this?” Deqing asked with his heart at his throat. His sweat kept falling from his forehead. Facing death, even his cough had miraculously disappeared.

“The reason we are doing is naturally because of... revenge,” Xinghe answered coolly, her gaze that studied him was as cold as the air above one’s grave. “Deqing, all the innocent orphans that have died in your hands are back to haunt you.”

Deqing widened his eyes with fear. Normally, he thought murdering was something normal, but at the moment, fear choked his heart. “This is all because He Lan Chang ordered

me to, I am only following orders! I did not kill any of them, I am not responsible for any of their deaths! You cannot simply pin this on me, I swear I have not directly killed a human being before!”

“Shameless!” Ali kicked him hard on his chest; she was angry enough to kill. “You might have not killed them directly, but it was you who gave the order. Huang Deqing, you have killed so many innocent children that you could die one thousand times and it would not be enough to pay for your sins. Since you had the courage to give the order, then you should have been prepared to face the consequences!”

Deqing coughed with difficulty before suddenly laughing coldly. “None of you will be walking out of here alive if you kill me. Everyone here belongs to the He Lan family. How are you going to explain my death to them? But...”

Deqing slowed down and threatened, “If you spare me then I will pretend nothing ever happen or else we will all die together! I have important information on the He Lan family with me, they will not overlook my death so easily.”

Deqing thought this was going to scare them and to be honest, it did give Xinghe’s group a second thought...

Xinghe seemed to have considered something before saying, “It is possible for us to not kill you, tell us everything you know, or we will throw you out the window this minute!”

Sam suddenly rushed forward to grab Deqing and drag him towards the window. He slammed the window open and the night breeze filtered in...

Sam forced Deqing’s upper body over the ledge and when Deqing looked down into the dark abyss, he felt his legs giving. His room was at the tenth floor, this fall was definitely going to kill him.

Witnessing his fear, Sam dragged him back, tossed him to the ground and closed the window.

Deqing was weak all over from being tossed all over the room. He used the last ounce of energy in his body to drag himself to

the wall. He leaned on the wall and glared at them. “You people do not have the guts to kill me. I...”

Before he could finish, he screamed in pain because one of his arms was suddenly forcefully dislocated. Sweat poured down his face and he finally got it in his brain that these people were serious.

Chapter 789: Deal With You Myself

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

“If you still refuse to cooperate, next time it will be your ear!” Ali pulled out her dagger and traced the sharp end of her knife along Deqing’s jaw. Deqing was scared out of his wits. Perhaps it was the irony of life, but usually the more heartless one treated another, the more likely that one turned out to be a coward. They treated other people’s lives like nothing, but they valued their own life very much. For the sake of living, they would promise anything.

Deqing nodded without thinking. “I will tell you everything! But what do you want to know? Haven’t you discovered everything about the orphanage?”

“How do you send the children to that place every time?” Xinghe suddenly asked. Deqing was taken aback before realizing what she was referring to. Suddenly he realized how much he had underestimated this woman. She was not going to let the smallest detail go unnoticed, she was going to squeeze every drop of information she could out of him...

“Speak!” Deqing felt the cold steel of Ali’s dagger touch his neck. He blurted out subconsciously, “They sent the people to get the children, I only needed to arrange some people to follow along with them.”

“What else?”

“That’s all. I am only responsible to cultivate the children, I have no dealings beyond that.”

Xinghe nodded and continued to ask, “How many children will die in a year?”

Deqing answered truthfully, “Only a few, not many.”

“How many is a few?” Xinghe raised her brow.

Deqing answered after taking a gulp, “One or two orphans will die every year, I swear.”

“Looks like you have not learnt your lesson, cut down one of his ears!” Xinghe suddenly ordered.

Ali's grip on her dagger tightened when Deqing added frantically, "There are four or five, there cannot be too many of them, or we would be discovered. We cannot risk that!"

"Four or five is still a few?" Xinghe scoffed. Angle Orphanage had been in operation for decades, if there were four to five deaths each year, how much was their total death count. Furthermore, Deqing was most definitely giving them a conservative number, the actual number must be much higher!

The conclusion was none of them were really human!

"Xinghe, stop wasting with him, let's kill him!" Ali hissed through her teeth. Thinking about so many innocent lives that died on his hands, Ali could not wait to plunge her dagger into his heart.

Deqing screamed out anxiously, "I have been so cooperative, and you people promised to spare me!"

"We did say we wouldn't kill you, but it does not mean that we are not going to do something else to you," Xinghe answered coldly.

Deqing looked at her with abject fear. "What are you planning?"

"Drugs." Xinghe did not answer but extend her hand towards Lu Qi. Lu Qi removed from his medical bag a syringe. "This drug can make sure he will never move or speak again for the rest of his life. He will be a vegetable, but he will be conscious."

Deqing's face when stark white—

Then he saw Xinghe walk towards him with the syringe in hand. There was no temperature in her gaze.

"No, you cannot do this to me, no... Help me, help..."

Deqing's mouth was covered up by Sam. Ali pinned down his arms and legs to prevent him from struggling. Deqing struggled with all of his might but it was no use, an orphanage manager was no match for two professional mercenaries.

Xinghe stopped before him and squatted down. She spoke into his face, "Normally I would not personally get involved in

dealing with people like you because it is a waste of my time, so consider yourself honored because you have made me dirty myself. Your sin was too big that my anger could only be squelched by exacting justice myself. Remember, karma is always watching—”

When she finished, Xinghe sunk the syringe deep into his arm!

Chapter 790: Their Hell!

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Deqing's eyes were the widest they had ever been. Fear was apparent in them. However, Xinghe did not go easy on him because of this. She stared at him coldly. She made sure he was staring at the syringe stuck in his arm before she pressed the drug slowly into his bloodstream. Her action was glacially slow in his eyes...

These few seconds were like the most horrible torture for Deqing. The terror in his eyes continued to multiply. The muscles in his body were as taut as iron. His heart almost stopped, he was almost literally scared to death.

When all the drugs were pushed into his body, the terror scale for Deqing was at its maximum. His eyes went blank and his whole body started to spasm unnaturally. Sam and Ali quickly released him. Deqing crumbled to the floor in a gyrating state and there were white foam coming out of his mouth.

"Epilepsy?" Sam commented with derision and sarcasm.

"He was too frightened that his body could not handle it," Lu Qi explained. Even though he was a doctor, watching such a demon get punished did make him feel good.

Ali launched another kick at Deqing to release her tension.

"He deserves it! How come he is not afraid when he ordered those kids killed but is so afraid now? Such a loser."

"You, you..." Deqing suddenly pushed out his hands and glared at them with hatred. He only managed to get out these few words before his body was struck by more spasms and his hands fell limp from lack of energy. He realized he was too weak to move or even speak. I am really going to become a vegetable, aren't I? It can't be...

Deqing tried his best to stand up but it was like his body was frozen solid. He could not move even a finger even if he tried. Deqing then knew the true meaning of fear. He communicated his request for help with his eyes to Xinghe's group. There were tears flowing freely out of his eyes, but they merely looked on quietly.

“Get him back onto the bed, he can no longer move on his own,” Lu Qi said. Sam and Ali pulled him up and tossed him roughly onto the bed.

They ignored Deqing’s suffering and turned to Xinghe.
“Xinghe, what shall we do next?”

After dealing with Deqing, they wanted to ride the high and deal with the other hell spawns.

Xinghe smirked. “Next, we will turn this place into real hell, but it will be their hell!”

Ali cheered. “Then, let’s get a move on!”

Xinghe did not like to drag things out, since the plan had already started then she would prefer to wrap it up as soon as possible!

Tonight, she would let these people understand the meaning of karma. Everyone who was touched by sin would have to pay, no one was getting away scot-free!

Those sinners in quarantine had no idea what kind of hell was waiting for them. Xinghe would not show any sympathy to these people. It was the same for Ali’s group. They barged into each quarantine room and gave these people injections.

The drugs they were given were different from the one administered to Deqing. This second type of drug would only exacerbate their illness, it would not claim their lives. They would live to experience every second of the illness’ torture.

For the children, Xinghe’s group gave them a kind of liquid medicine. They would show symptoms of fever and fainting spells, but it would not harm their physical body in any way.

Chapter 791: Fire

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

This was to create an illusion. Xinghe's plan was to use the contagious flu to completely ruin this orphanage; they would not be allowed to operate anymore in the future. The files in the basement had been moved away after she hacked the lock. No one would know what really happened that night.

Before the sun rose, everyone at the orphanage had fallen ill. The strength of the contagion was so strong that even the bodyguards and doctors refused to get close to the orphanage even if they were wearing an MET suit. Only Xinghe's group volunteered to do the job.

At the same time, He Bin had received the update from Xinghe. Every important member of the He Lan family was briefed on everything that happened at the orphanage. When they saw the video taken by Xinghe, they were shocked because they did not expect the contagious flu to be so fatal.

Even He Lan Qi, who was given special care by a team of doctors, was barely hanging on much less these people who had less. However, their first response after seeing so much suffering was not to send more people to save them but to ruin everyone there to cover it up!

This involved way too many people, the news could not be allowed to leak, or else it would be over for all of them. Furthermore, they did not have enough resources to save so many people, and if they brought in help from outside, their secret would definitely be leaked.

Therefore, they suggested to wipe Angel Orphanage off the face of the earth with a giant fire. When He Bin listened to these people's heartless decision over video conference, his heart was chilled. This was the He Lan family, none of them had a human heart. Then again, why else would He Lan Chang keep them around if they were not cruel?

It was because of their decisive cruelty that the He Lan family's secret could remain unnoticed for so long. Naturally, He Bin had to play into this heartless character as well. He

permitted their decision to destroy everyone and everything still quarantined at the orphanage.

Even though everyone agreed to this decision, none of them were willing to do it themselves. They were afraid of getting infected. Eventually, they collectively shoved it onto He Bin's shoulders since he was the head of the house. He Bin expected as much from this group of snakes, but he was willing to bear this responsibility.

After Xinghe received his news, she said with a smile, "Then we will continue on with the plan, leave the rest to us."

"Okay, be careful."

"Don't worry, everything will be over soon." Xinghe hung up after she promised that. He Bin also closed his phone, then he stared out the window. There was a layer of frost on the glass, the night outside must be as cold as ice. However, He Bin's blood was boiling from the excitement of this glorious and noble mission...

...

The doctors and bodyguards who did not get infected at the orphanage were sent away. The children were secretly escorted out of the premise as well.

Then, the whole orphanage was drenched with petrol. The sharp smell permeated the dense air. Everyone in Xinghe's group had a lighter in their hands. They studied the empty buildings with a detached eye.

"Let's get started!" After she said so, Xinghe lit her lighter before throwing it at one of the buildings. Then, everyone else followed suit.

The fire caught immediately. The flames were like God's cleansing flames as it swept through this desecrated ground, swallowing everything that had been touched by sin.

Chapter 792: The End of the He Lan family

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Xinghe's group stood in front of the raging fire. Their eyes reflected the flames that licked into the sky. Everyone's mood was as heated as the fire burning before them, because this fire signified the end of Angel Orphanage and the end of the He Lan family!

Yes, this was going to be end for the He Lan family. They thought a fire could cover up their tracks, but alas, this flame was merely a prelude for the flames of hell that awaited them!

He Bin would not follow their orders to cover up everything, in fact, he would use this fire to expose everything!

The fire at Angel Orphanage made Country R's headlines the next day. Innumerable police and firefighters as well as reporters came to check out the burnt sight. As the day broke, almost everyone had heard about the fire at Angel Orphanage.

Everyone followed the news closely and Chui Qian immediately mobilized to capture everyone related to the He Lan family. His years of homework finally paid off. His blacklist contained the names of everyone who had once worked for the He Lan family. With the president's orders, the police swarmed on this group of people, giving them no chance to escape.

Even the satellite-launching base was swimming with a large number of law enforcement officers. The place was sealed off and arrests were rampant!

Xinghe's group also arrived at the scene at the first notice. She thought she would be able to locate her mother at the base and Ee Chen thought the same way. However, after detaining everyone, their parents were still nowhere to be found.

They had flipped the sprawling satellite-launching base upside down, but they were nowhere to be seen.

Xinghe was befuddled. "Why aren't they here?"

She thought they would definitely be there because all the good seeds selected from the orphanage were sent to work

there. She also realized something weird. There were no extra impressive young adults working at the base.

That was curious because the orphanage would send many capable children over every year. Logically speaking, there should be people from every age group there, and the difference in number for the age group would not be drastic. However, they realized there was a lack of adults between ages twenty to thirty. That whole generation seemed to have disappeared.

They were supposed to be the fresh blood that reinvigorated their research, so the base should value them a lot so where were these people.

“Get the manager here and find out. There must be a lot of hidden secrets at this place as well,” Mubai reminded her in a whisper.

Xinghe nodded and quickly had the police bring them to meet the manager who had been arrested. The manager’s name was He Lan Long; he was He Lan Chang’s cousin. Needless to say, he did not expect for his base to be assaulted by the police so suddenly.

When Xinghe and the rest arrived, He Lan Long was in the middle of a shouting match with the commanding officer of this operation, “There is nothing wrong with this facility and this is private property, so you people have no right to conduct any arrests here! I am telling you now that our He Lan family is not a force you can afford to cross, if you do not retreat this very second, none of you will be able to bear the consequences that come your way!”

“I do want to see what kind of consequences the dying He Lan family can still manage to wrangle together,” Xinghe opened her lips to say.

He Lan Long turned to look at her, and his face darkened.

“What did you say?”

Xinghe scoffed. “I said, the He Lan family is dead.”

“Impossible!” He Lan Long denied subconsciously; he was very clear about how powerful the He Lan family was.

Chapter 793: The World Is Ending

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The He Lan family had spent years building their influence and power, they could not be toppled overnight. If they went down, the whole country would be affected. Furthermore, they didn't hear of any threat facing the family before this, so this could not have happened out of nowhere.

“Impossible? Then why are all of you under arrest? All members of the He Lan family are in custody and the police has found proof of all your criminal activities, so you can save your breath, none of you are getting away.”

He Lan Long's face blanched immediately. There was utter disbelief in other people's eyes. This news was like a flash of lightning in the middle of the day; it came without warning. Everything was fine a second ago but now everything was not. They did not even have the time to prepare for it. They could not accept this reality because it meant that their decades of hard work and sacrifice had gone to waste!

“Impossible, I do not believe this, I refuse to believe this!” He Lan Long exclaimed with agitation, the fury bubbling within him was directed fully at Xinghe. “Our He Lan family will not be so easily taken down, no one can undermine our power, we are the most influential family in history, no one can pose as a threat to us!”

“What if that person is He Lan Qi?” Xinghe asked.

He Lan Long was taken aback. “What did you say?”

Sam, who had a sadistic streak in him especially when he was faced with people who deserved it, added with a smirk, “It was He Lan Qi who provided all the evidence to undermine the He Lan family from within!”

“What...” He Lan Long took a few faltering steps back. His body was swaying from side to side as if he could collapse at any moment. It was He Lan Qi who ratted us out... then it is truly over!

“That traitor!” He Lan Long yelled with malevolence, he wished to have He Lan Qi right before him then so that he could tear into him. Everyone else was equally furious.

“He Lan Qi has sold us out? That traitor, he has ruined everything!”

“How can he help outsiders ruin everything we have built, what is he thinking?”

“This He Lan Qi, I will kill him!”

Everyone there was agitated and furious. It was as if He Lan Qi had murdered their parents or something like that. Xinghe’s party was honestly a bit shocked; they did not realize they would be so united against a common enemy. However, under their anger, there was an insidious sense of madness.

Mubai pulled Xinghe to his side subconsciously, afraid that these people would suddenly lash out at them. The group of soldiers and police also stood at the ready, if anyone dared to riot, they would not hesitate to shoot.

“He Lan Qi did what he did because he could not bear to see the sins you people have committed. After all, you yourself understand what kind of sick things you have done,” Xinghe suddenly said.

He Lan Long gave her an evil glance and started to laugh. “We are the sinners? No, this world made us into who we are; the winner takes it all! So why can there be so many kings and queens in history but we are sinning simply because we are aiming to do the same? Who has the power? Who will rule everything? That is the rule of everything. This world belongs to our He Lan family, so what if we falter for a step now? It has been destined from the beginning that everything will be ours! And all of you will have to die.”

Like a raving madman, He Lan Long started to cackle. It made the hair on everyone’s body stand.

“Very soon, you will find out how stupidly you have acted. You have ruined everything; this world is ending...”

Chapter 794: Make the World the Enemy

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

His cackle seemed to be infectious because everyone started mimicking him. It was as if they had victory in their hands and were not afraid of anything.

Xinghe stared sharply at He Lan Long and asked, “What do you mean by we have ruined everything?”

He Lan Long laughed devilishly. “You people will understand soon enough! You will suffer the consequences of coming after us! This consequence is not something you can bear!”

“That’s right, the consequence is not something any one of you can bear! So be prepared for regret.”

“Soon, the whole world will know how powerful we are and will murder you lot for the sake of saving themselves.”

“Bunch of idiots, you will tremble in fear!”

“Awaiting death!”

All these people were glaring at them with a crazed look in their eyes, it felt incredibly unsettling. Xinghe did not think they were bluffing. They must have known something they did not and something big would happen in the near future. However, they could not take a step back when they had gotten so far. They could not let these people go unpunished. The choice had been made they would live with no matter what.

“Is that so? I do wish to see who is so capable that he could threaten the whole world. Unless he is a god, I do not think that is a possibility!” Xinghe retorted sharply, she was not at all afraid of their threats.

He Lan Long chuckled darkly. “Young girl, I advise you to not be so overconfident. There is always someone better than you and things beyond your imagination are always happening. I do not wish to continue wasting my time talking to you anymore, since you will all find out the consequence in a few days’ time.”

“Why don’t you tell me what the consequence is now and who the one bringing the consequences will be?” Xinghe powered on fearlessly.

He Lan Long shook his head with a smile. “I cannot do that; his plan is not something humans like us can reveal. You will know about him when he wishes for you to.”

“Then, where is he?” Xinghe asked again.

He Lan Long started laughing brazenly. “Do you think we will tell you that? Do not waste your breath; we will not tell you anything, but do not worry because everything will be revealed soon.”

“Fine, then I will wait and see. Take them away and continue the interrogation,” Xinghe ordered the commander.

“Yes.” The commander understood the gravity of the situation. After he detained these people, he immediately reported this back to Chui Qian. The launch site was sealed off and experts were ushered in to turn it upside down, leaving no stone unturned.

Xinghe’s group stood off to the side, ruminating on He Lan Long’s words.

“Do any of you think he is being serious, is the world really ending?” Ee Chen asked the group in a solemn manner.

Xinghe replied softly, “He might be telling the truth, but I do not think the world is ending. No matter how powerful this person is, the world will not be taken out so easily.”

“But they sounded so confident...”

“Regardless, this does not mean that we are helpless. If he threatens the world, then he will be making the whole world his enemy,” Xinghe said matter-of-factly, her gaze as sharp as tack. Her indomitable spirit was showing again.

Witnessing this, Ee Chen felt greatly calmed. He said with a smile, “You are right, we are not totally helpless. I do not believe that, with the whole world united, we cannot take down one threat!”

Sam was excited. “But I want to know who this person is that can pose a threat to the whole world. For some reasons, I really want to see this person.”

Ali immediately berated him, “What nonsense are you talking about? We are completely unprepared, meeting him now would probably mean certain death. Can you please use your brain for once?”

Chapter 795: Self-Destruct System

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Sam pouted helplessly. "I'm just saying..."

Xinghe turned around to get Mubai's opinion. "What do you think about this?"

Mubai said matter-of-factly, "What can I think about this? We can only leave it to the bigwigs of the major countries. Of course, if we can get more information from He Lan Long, it would be better. Our hands are tied at the moment, we will step in when they ask for our help."

Xinghe nodded in agreement. "You are right, this thing is no longer something we can solve on our own. However, I swear to unearth this base's secrets!"

"Of course, this base still hides many unknown secrets, we need to get them discovered as soon as possible so we will have more time to come up with a plan to deal with what comes next. Come on, let's get moving," Mubai said directly. He planned to be personally involved as well. They still had free access from Chui Qian for now, so they needed to make use of the opportunity. When other counties got involved, they probably would not be able to wander around the base so freely anymore...

With a plan in place, Xinghe's group mobilized. They did not think He Lan Long was bluffing, so none of them dared to treat this lightly. They treated it with the seriousness that it deserved.

First thing they looked at was naturally the base's heart, the information center. In other words, the control room that stored all the necessary information.

However, in the large control room, every computer was locked behind a password. There were more than ten supercomputers, and each had a different lock. Unlocking them would require a lot of time. Xinghe's party was not afraid of the lock being too hard, but they were afraid that unlocking them would take too much time.

“There are so many experts here, if we each work on one, I am sure the speed will be much faster,” Ee Chen suggested.

For the purpose of this mission, Chui Qian ordered about ten computer experts to come and help. They were all waiting for Xinghe’s arrangement.

Xinghe nodded. “That sounds fine, everyone will be responsible for one. However, let me try first, perhaps they are fitted with some kind of information wipe system.”

She was afraid that their carelessness would trigger such system and their opportunity would be wasted. No one had any issues with her having the first crack at it.

As Xinghe sat down in front of a supercomputer, the screen suddenly lit up. A frame that scanned human face feature appeared on screen and the computer said in a mechanical voice, “Please insert the password within three seconds or the system will initiate the self-destruct sequence after one minute. Beginning countdown, three...”

When the mechanical voice started the countdown, Xinghe immediately jumped up from the chair and away from the computer. Everyone looked at the computer in shock. Xinghe was right all along, these computers were fitted with information wipe program, and it was something as crazy as a self-destruct sequence!

If the password was not provided in three seconds, the system would self-destruct. They could only say that the He Lan family was incredibly cautious.

“Xinghe, what should we do? It’s going to self-destruct soon!” Ali yelled anxiously. Everyone else was equally worried. The three second countdown was ending soon, and the computer would self-destruct in the next minute.

Chapter 796: Torturous Sixty Seconds

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

If the computer exploded, then their trail would end there!

However, none of them had the solution to this, who could solve the problem under a minute?

“God damn it, might as well try since there is nothing to lose!” Xinghe leaped back into the chair and started operating the computer. Everyone understood what she was trying to do; she aimed to destroy the self-destruct program in less than a minute. However, was that even possible?

Even Xinghe did not have the answer to that question, she only knew she could not give up until the very last second. She could not stand there and allow their hard work to be taken away like that. Even if the result was a fail, she would give it her all...

Xinghe's typing speed was so fast that no one could see her fingers anymore. Everyone around her stood around her quietly. They subconsciously all stopped breathing, they did not dare to even elicit a sound.

They snuck a glance at their watches once in a while, calculating the time left. With every passing second, the sweat pouring down their faces increased, and their hearts would sometimes even miss a beat. Every second of it was extreme torture!

One second passed with the blink of an eye. All of them prayed vehemently for time to slow down. However, simultaneously, they felt every second was excruciatingly long because they wanted release from the immense suspense and pressure. This one minute was the most torturous minute they had ever lived.

However, it was Xinghe who was under the most pressure. She had to neutralize the self-destruct sequence or all the information within would be out of their grasp!

“Twenty seconds left!” an unknown person yelled out, unable to contain it within them. The anxiety in the room heightened

with the reminder.

Xinghe also entered her most nervous state, her hands were so fast, it just looked like she was randomly pressing buttons on the keyboard. However, the system had not been broken through yet, the timer kept going, impervious to the room's wish that it would slow down or stop.

“Fifteen seconds left!”

“Fourteen seconds left!”

“Thirteen seconds...”

Everyone could not help but remind Xinghe. The countdown continued heartlessly but the tone was increasingly anxious. Ali's group gripped their fists tight, praying silently for Xinghe to succeed.

“Seven seconds left!”

“Six seconds!”

“We're in the last five seconds!”

When this was yelled out, everyone was already in despair. Xinghe could not possibly neutralize the system with only five seconds left on the clock. That wasn't humanly possible! Everyone stared at the timer voicelessly with bated breath, waiting for the self-destruction to engulf them.

The last five seconds ticked down to four, three, two, and then one!

Then, it stopped!

At the last second, Xinghe's hands stopped. Everyone thought that she had given up; she had done everything she could. However, the air in the room was still even after a few more seconds. There was no explosion, and everyone finally realized that something was out of place.

Mubai grabbed Xinghe's hands soundlessly. Xinghe lifted her head to look into his smiling eyes.

“You have done it; you are incredible...” the man whispered with obvious cheer as his lips curved into a smile.

Xinghe could not help but respond in kind. “I did not expect to be able to do it myself.”

“Xinghe, have you really done it? You have really done it!”
Ali screamed out with joy and her scream slowly brought everyone out of their reverie.

She had really done it!

The room then exploded with thunderous applause.

Chapter 797: Spaceship

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

The way they looked at Xinghe changed; there was warmth and passion in their gazes. Even Ee Chen and the rest who knew of Xinghe's capability were impressed by the miracle she had just performed in front of their eyes, much less the experts who were not that familiar with Xinghe. They did not expect Xinghe to be so capable that she could take down such a complicated program in such a short amount of time.

The lock program must have been extremely difficult considering the location they were in and Xinghe only needed a short minute to hack through it...

What was the difference between her and a real god really?

"Xinghe, you are a miracle in itself, this reminds me of why you are my idol!" Sam praised her lavishly while showing her a thumbs-up.

"Xinghe, I also want to learn computer skills like this, can you please teach me?" Cairn asked with some degree of excitement.

"Master, when are you going to officially accept me as your student?" Ee Chen directly call her master.

Cairn heard this and added, "Xinghe, I too will call you master in the future!"

"Wait, teach me too!" Ali followed and raised her hand in the air. A few of the experts subconsciously raised their hands, but they soon lowered them out of shame.

Xinghe said with a smile, "You all have misunderstood. That was just lucky of me, I was just fiddling around, and luck was on my side."

"You have to be at least capable before you can get luck on your side. If it was me who was fiddling around, the result would be one hundred percent different," Sam retorted.

"That's right, it is because you are already good at this that luck decided to side with you. If it was anyone else, I

guarantee one hundred percent that person would have failed,” Ali chimed in. In any case, they had all agreed that Xinghe was definitely the best.

Xinghe did not waste time arguing with them about this. She stood up and said, “Undoing the self-destruction system does not help us in any way. These supercomputers have more than one password lock, I cannot guarantee I will be so lucky next time.”

“You mean none of these computers here can be touched?” Mubai asked to confirm.

“That’s right.” Xinghe nodded. “Stay away from all the computers. To guarantee the information within will not be affected, it is best that nobody goes anywhere near them.”

“Then, what is the difference to just letting them self-destruct? Either way, we are unable to retrieve the information within,” an expert asked.

Xinghe explained, “We cannot retrieve the information for now. Let’s continue to figure out a way, maybe there are some methods we can use to unlock all these systems. Until we find a safe solution, it is the wise thing to not rush headfirst into things.”

“You are right of course...”

Everyone agreed with her. Then again, what other choices did they have? None of them had the capability of unlock the system. They knew how valuable the information inside these computers was. If their carelessness caused the information to disappear, could they bear the responsibility?

Therefore, the only thing they could do then was wait, to figure out a way to sidestep this conundrum. However, they could still look into the other area of the base, perhaps they could stumble upon some other information.

They searched the base high and low for a whole day, the only things of note they found were a satellite and a spaceship that had not been launched into space.

Xinghe’s group was shocked that the base would have a spaceship. According to the size of the spaceship, it could fit

three people.

However, it was impossible to tell whether this base had sent people into space before or not. After all, sending people into space without permission was a serious offense, they would not announce that to the world.

Chapter 798: United Front

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

Chui Qian soon received the report and he came personally to inspect the area. When he saw the spaceship, he said confidently, “I had no idea they had built something like this. The country has no record of whether they have launched something like this into space or not.”

“They must have because the technology is too complete,” Xinghe answered. She had checked the spaceship while waiting for Chui Qian to arrive, at least all the internal systems were fully complete. Without experience, such degree of completion was an impossibility.

Chui Qian was shocked, but he believed Xinghe. “But what are they doing in space?”

“No idea, but it is definitely not something good.”

“Could they really be doing something that is harmful to the world?” Chui Qian immediately started to worry.

Mubai said matter-of-factly, “Most likely or else the people at the base would not have been so confident. However, until now, we have been unable to get any information out of them.”

Chui Qian’s voice turned cold. “Then we will continue the interrogation, I do not believe none of them will crack! We must search this base thoroughly too, we must not give up on the smallest detail!”

“Perhaps we can start with the people from the He Lan family,” Xinghe suggested.

Chui Qian nodded. “Of course.”

They had to investigate every aspect there was. They could not afford to leave any stone unturned. If the He Lan family really were planning something big and sinister, they had to know before it was too late. However, no matter how harsh or insistent their interrogation, there was no progress.

They were all incredibly tight-lipped and those who were willing to tell did not know anything. In other words, those

who knew about Project Galaxy would not reveal the information even if they were threatened with death.

Xinghe was surprised that they would put up such a united front. They were like cult in which every member had been sworn to secrecy. This only added to the sinister feeling of the plan. This was because such cults always had a strong spiritual belief, and if such a strong belief was channeled into something evil, chaos would be born.

Chui Qian had been in secret meetings to discuss this problem. Even Hwa Xia was trying to help with as much as they could...

None of them thought He Lan Long and his people were bluffing. Until now, He Lan Long and his people were still waiting for the rapture that they kept mentioning, waiting for that person to make his appearance.

They really believed what they were saying. The only thing Chui Qian and the rest could do was try to find out as much information as they could before the time ran out. However, a few days had passed and there had been no progress...

Xinghe had stayed at the base to deal with the control room's supercomputers, but she was getting nowhere as well. The supercomputers there were connected to one another. After Xinghe hacked through two computers, she accidentally triggered another self-destruction system that almost ruined all the computers.

Thankfully, she managed to prevent that from happening. However, with that lesson in mind, she did not dare to experiment with the computers anymore. After all, she did not know how many defenses were in the computers; one wrong move and the whole base might be brought down.

Only by knowing the password could the computers be unlocked, but He Lan Long and his people refused to give it up. As long as they did not cough the password up, then the information inside the computers would always be a mystery.

It would take Xinghe God knows how long before she could completely bring down all the defenses.

Chapter 799: A Few Rectangular Indentations

Translator: Lonelytree Editor: Millman97

If she had time, she could go through them slowly, but time was the only thing she did not have. Regardless, Xinghe did not give up. She moved into the launch site and her everyday life was hacking the computers with the bunch of experts. She had Mubai's help as well. He was also a computer expert and was better than most of them there. However, even with so many people pitching in, they could not come up with a feasible solution...

SamWolf could contribute even less. Other than patrolling the base, there was nothing they could do.

Finally, after a few days, the research on the spaceship was done!

To everyone's surprise, the spaceship's fuel box was completely different from normal spaceships. It was only a small compartment with several rectangular indentations. According to the experts, this was highly unusual. Such a small storage of fuel was not enough to propel mankind into space, so this spaceship was most likely a defect, in fact, they even doubted if the He Lan family had ever tried sending people into space before.

However, when Xinghe, Mubai and Ee Chen saw the internal structure of the fuel compartment, they were utterly shocked!

This was because they were immediately reminded of the energy crystal when they saw the rectangular indentations. The indentation was the size of energy crystal. So, this meant the thing could also be used as fuel...

Could the few energy crystals be enough to supplement the great amount of energy required to send the spaceship into space? It sounded so sci-fi!

Xinghe and the two did not say anything and quickly found an excuse to leave the room. They found a quiet room and started discussing among themselves.

“The indentations in the fuel compartment, do you think they are related to that thing?” The question floated out of Ee Chen’s mouth the moment they shut the door behind them.

Xinghe nodded. “It has to be.”

“So that thing is a fuel source?” Ee Chen asked in shock.

“Yes,” Xinghe confirmed.

“How can you be so sure?” Ee Chen asked.

This time it was Mubai who answered, “Because we have done experiments on it and the energy crystals can burn for a very long time while releasing a ton of energy.”

“Energy crystals?”

Xinghe nodded slightly. “That’s right, that is what some call them. In a way, that is correct because they are crystals that can produce energy.”

Ee Chen was startled before chuckling to himself. “I see it now, so this thing is a type of energy source, and I had been thinking it was some kind of magical item!”

Turned out it was only fuel, not much different from common coal...

“Magic?” Xinghe also joined in with the laughter. “It is just a type of special mineral, but no one has any idea where it came from.”

Subconsciously, Xinghe lifted her head to look up into the sky. Night had fallen, and because the launch base was built away from the hustle and bustle of the city, the night sky could be viewed without obstruction. That night, the stars fell across the sky like God had accidentally knocked over a bucket of stars and they had spilled into the sky.

Scientifically speaking, most of the stars we see in the sky are suns that are far away from our galaxy.

They would burn out before we could even get close, logically speaking, we could only land on other planets or moons.

Xinghe focused her gaze on a particular spot in the night sky and said, “But I suspect it came from that place.”

Ee Chen and Mubai followed her gaze into the sky. They understood what she meant. Their lips were pressed into a hard line and they said no words. They had also been thinking the same thing, but voicing it aloud would probably make them sound crazy.

Chapter 800: Changes!

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But now, it did not seem to be far from the truth. They had found a launch site, so was the hypothesis really that hard to accept?

The question remained, what were they doing in space?

“Let’s move, I need to get to the observatory to see what is happening up there,” Xinghe said suddenly.

Mubai supported this crazy idea of hers. “Okay, let us go now.”

Ee Chen was shocked. “Do you two really think there are people up there?”

“There has to be,” Xinghe said confidently. The plot was going down that path and no one was going to stop it, but...

“Are these energy crystals really enough to send people into space?” Ee Chen asked with open disbelief.

“We will know after we go and find out.” Xinghe opened the door and strode out. She did not like to waste time talking; she was a woman of action. Mubai helped her contact Chui Qian. He briefed him on their idea, and although Chui Qian was shocked, he chose to support them. Perhaps, they might be able to find something.

Furthermore, Chui Qian thought of something. He told Xinghe, a few decades ago, the He Lan family gave birth to a genius; it was he who helped with the satellite design and allowed Country R to send its first satellite into space. That individual had been doing research at the launch base ever since, but after a while, he disappeared without warning. Rumors said that he died.

Chui Qian was certain that this person had plenty to do with the He Lan family’s conspiracy. Therefore, perhaps, they had really done something in space.

After Xinghe heard Chui Qian, she had a sinking feeling in her stomach. She rushed to the observatory. The people at the

observatory had been notified of their arrival and immediately led them to space observatory when they arrived.

“We have been observing the space for so many years but there has been nothing out of place. The curiosities we have recorded are all natural. Therefore, if there were any issues, we would have discovered it,” the manager at the observatory told Xinghe’s group. Xinghe looked at the beautiful night sky on screen and did not reply.

Mubai asked the manager, “Have there been no weird occurrences over the past few decades?”

“There should be none, at least there have been none in the ten years that I have worked here.”

“Then how many satellites Country R has launched over the years?” Mubai asked.

“There should be almost a hundred already.”

“Did you keep track of each of them during launch?”

“Yes, but we stopped tracking them after they entered orbit. As you know, there are too many satellites in the sky, it would be hard for us to keep track of all of them.”

“What about the He Lan family’s own satellites? Do you keep an occasional eye on them too?”

“Yes, and there has been nothing weird about them...”

Mubai continued the series of questions but he found nothing. Xinghe and Ee Chen studied the night sky diligently and found nothing as well. Did this mean there was nothing suspicious about the launch site as well?

Impossible because the He Lan family was definitely up to something. Therefore, their satellites must be problematic as well, only they could not figure out what. Just as they were at a loss, Xinghe suddenly realized there were changes with the satellites in space!