

Secret Love 2161

Chapter 2161: You're the mightiest hero in my mind

As Ye Wanwan watched Nie Linglong breathe her last breath, her face turned colder and she tossed the blood-stained dagger to the side.

At that moment, Si Yehan, who had heard the odd noise coming from the cell, opened the cell door and entered.

After seeing the lifeless Nie Linglong, his gaze landed on Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan looked like she was a crazed, bloodthirsty demon who had climbed out from the pits of hell. Her bone-chilling gaze caused Si Yehan's heart to ache immensely.

Si Yehan walked toward Ye Wanwan immediately, gently pulling her into his arms.

"Ah-Jiu..."

Ye Wanwan deeply burrowed her head in his arms. Si Yehan could feel her tears soaking his shirt.

"Mm," Si Yehan quietly replied.

"Ah-Jiu... I... I miss my brother... I miss him.."

A second later, Ye Wanwan tightly hugged Si Yehan, trembling in his arms slightly.

"He was... your mightiest hero," Si Yehan softly whispered.

...

At Asura, Tangtang and Si Yehan kept Ye Wanwan company without leaving her for a second. After several days, Ye Wanwan's mood finally improved.

That same day, Ye Wanwan returned to the Nie residence.

The Nie family had been cleansed entirely, and the power of all the higher-ups who participated in Ye Wanwan and Nameless Nie's attempted murder had been handed to her Second Great Uncle, the Nie family's First Elder.

Ye Wanwan didn't expect her Second Great Uncle to act so swiftly or eliminate all of the borers in the Nie family in such a short amount of time.

"Worriless, actually... this had nothing to do with me."

Second Great Uncle sighed.

Ye Wanwan frowned, unable to understand him.

"It was only these two days that I learned... In truth, when your elder brother returned that day, he swiftly and decisively took care of all those higher-ups and elders... and also withdrew all of their power," Second Great Uncle explained.

“It was Brother, was it...?”

Ye Wanwan’s lips turned up in a bitter smile.

That’s right, it was my brother again...

That day, he hastily left the hospital, saying something about accepting a big job...

Ah, her elder brother... was a liar... a giant liar... from head to toe...

...

On the rear mountain of the Nie residence, there was a burial mound.

As the sun set in the west, it scattered golden yellow rays on this spot, creating a warm environment.

Ye Wanwan held up two jugs of liquor as she sat in front of the grave.

“Brother, this is your favorite liquor...”

An indescribable smile hung on Ye Wanwan’s lips as she downed the jug of liquor in one go before pouring the other jug on the ground.

“Brother, does it taste good?” Ye Wanwan murmured softly.

“Brother, here’s your other favorite thing...”

Ye Wanwan picked up a brick of gold and buried it in the ground.

Soon, the liquor hit her and a crazy smile appeared on her face as she sat in her spot.

Involuntarily, the scene of her first meeting with Nameless Nie back in China surfaced in her mind, along with the dribs and drabs that followed.

Nameless Nie made her temporarily act as Tangtang’s Mommy and shoved Tangtang into her care. Then, he participated in some mission completion reality show and sent a TV, a fridge, and the other household appliances he won to her as Tangtang’s living expenses, which eventually led to him being banned from all the mission completion shows...

In her state of sobriety and intoxication, two streams of tears slid down her face. “Brother... if there’s a next life, I still want to be your sister... and I hope you’ll be my brother still... But in the next life... I’ll be the one to protect you. Whoever dares to bully you... I’ll stand up for you and beat them black and blue.”

“Brother... you are... the mightiest superhero... in my heart.”

Chapter 2162: It’s you surprisingly

During this period of time, the Independent State was oddly peaceful, and nothing major happened with both the Nie family and the Fearless Alliance.

Ye Wanwan dispatched a lot of manpower from the Nie family and the Fearless Alliance to look into Madam Nie and Patriarch Nie's whereabouts while Asura continued to investigate the island they previously discovered.

The only noteworthy finding was that Dead Man quietly left at some unknown point after Nameless Nie left, disappearing from Ye Wanwan's sight, so Taoist Devotee, Spray of Flowers, and Brick-moving Foreigner had been searching for Dead Man's whereabouts.

Ye Wanwan felt a trace of confusion regarding Dead Man's departure, not knowing what he was up to. Could it be... he was cultivating in seclusion to foster a gu insect that could raise a person from the dead?

Of course, that was merely a fleeting thought, and Ye Wanwan didn't think into it more deeply unrealistically.

"Ah-Jiu... how's your investigation going?"

In the early morning, Ye Wanwan called Si Yehan.

"There will be news within three days," Si Yehan responded.

After chatting with Si Yehan for a moment, Ye Wanwan hung up.

Since Si Yehan was looking into the island every day and didn't stay at Asura's headquarters too much, Ye Wanwan picked Tangtang back up, and Si Yehan visited the Nie residence whenever he was free.

Right now, everyone in the Independent State knew about Lord Asura's relationship with the Nie family, so Si Yehan visiting the Nie residence was par for the course.

Ye Wanwan had just hung up when some unhurried knocking came from the door.

"The door's unlocked, enter."

As Ye Wanwan called out, she looked a bit confused. Who would come to the Nie residence study to seek her out this early in the morning...?

The door to the study was pushed open.

"It's you?!"

When Ye Wanwan saw the newcomer, her brows instantly furrowed.

The visitor wasn't a stranger—it was the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union...

"Heh... Miss Worryless, I have something to discuss with you," the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union greeted her with a light chuckle.

"How did you enter the Nie residence?" Ye Wanwan wore an apathetic expression.

"The Nie residence...? I can naturally enter it whenever I want to. Back then, I could even take away Emperor Ji and the leader of Heavenly Owl, so the Nie residence... naturally isn't difficult to impenetrate," the Vice President replied.

“The Martial Arts Union...” Ye Wanwan narrowed her eyes.

In other words, it was the Martial Arts Union that abducted Ji Xiuran and the leader of Heavenly Owl, Haitang...

Although Ye Wanwan previously suspected the Martial Arts Union, it was mere suspicion and she actually suspected the Direct Line the most. She never expected the Martial Arts Union to really be the culprit.

“So, Miss Worriless, will you leave with me or... will I have to take you with me?” the Vice President asked with a smirk.

“You?”

Ye Wanwan slowly stood up, her eyes intently focused on the Vice President. “You’re indeed very strong for being able to abduct Ji Xiuran and Haitang... However, I’m afraid it won’t be so easy for you to abduct me.”

“Heh, I’ll have to try and see, am I right?” The Vice President strode toward Ye Wanwan.

“You’re dead!” Ye Wanwan’s eyes glinted coldly, and she swung her fist at the man.

Ye Wanwan and the Vice President’s fists collided, producing a stifled sound.

When they exchanged blows, Ye Wanwan managed to make some calculations.

The Vice President of the Martial Arts Union was indeed very strong... but it would be a fairytale for him to abduct her from the Nie residence.

Chapter 2163: Familiar Figure

Ye Wanwan was certain this Vice President wouldn’t be a match for her if she attacked at full power without holding back.

It was just that...

Ye Wanwan’s eyes shifted. She pretended to be no match for him and staggered back.

“You...”

Ye Wanwan donned a “fearful” expression. “I’m not your equal... Don’t kill me. I’ll go with you...”

The Vice President was startled.

They just exchanged blows and Worriless Nie wasn’t in a disadvantageous position, so why did she suddenly admit defeat?

However, the Vice President didn’t think it was a trick and thought everything was still within his control.

“Then I’ll have to mistreat you, Miss Worriless. Tie your hands together.” The Vice President threw a string of rope toward her.

Ye Wanwan nodded and obediently tied her hands together.

“However, I’m very curious. This is the Nie residence. Even though you managed to enter, I’m afraid it won’t be so easy to abduct me. Once you alert anyone in the Nie family, I’m afraid you yourself can’t escape, let alone abduct me,” Ye Wanwan mused.

The Vice President smiled faintly. “Miss Worriless doesn’t need to worry about this point.”

After saying that, he walked behind Ye Wanwan and moved a painting hanging on the wall.

...

Under Ye Wanwan’s astonished gaze, the Vice President actually opened a secret passage from the study in the Nie residence!

Why was there a secret passage in the study?!

Moreover, this secret passage was most likely newly created, looking like it had been dug from the outside into the Nie residence.

“Heh, as I said earlier, it won’t be difficult for me to abduct you from the Nie residence, Miss Worriless. Was I right?” the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union asked with a chuckle.

“The Martial Arts Union is fearsome indeed.”

Ye Wanwan nodded. She conceded. They actually dug a secret passage from the outside that directly led to the study of the Nie residence.

A realization dawned on Ye Wanwan at that moment.

No wonder those top leaders of the Independent State were abducted from their headquarters without notice. It appeared the Martial Arts Union made preparations beforehand. They had schemed for a long time.

“If you please, Miss Worriless.”

The Vice President gestured for Ye Wanwan to enter the secret passage.

Ye Wanwan didn’t say anything and strode into the secret passage.

After Ye Wanwan entered the secret passage, the Vice President instantly followed and returned the painting in the study back to its original spot from inside the passage flawlessly.

As Ye Wanwan walked in front, her lips curled up into an intrigued smile.

The Vice President of the Martial Arts Union thought he had abducted her, but he had no idea Ye Wanwan had decided to follow Nameless Nie’s plan for a while now...

As long as the mastermind behind the abduction of the Independent State’s leaders appeared, she would surrender and agree to leave on her own.

Furthermore, she had discussed this with Second Great Uncle, First Elder of the Fearless Alliance, and Si Yehan beforehand.

As soon as she disappeared for a day, it meant she was executing Nameless Nie's plan and would leave clues for them.

At that time, she would collaborate with them from the inside.

...

The next day, on an island:

After abandoning Ye Wanwan on the island, the Vice President of the Martial Arts Union hurriedly left.

"Is this... the island where Ji Xiuran, Haitang, and the others are imprisoned...?" Ye Wanwan muttered as she examined her surroundings.

At that moment, from the corner of her eyes, Ye Wanwan caught a somewhat familiar figure digging into the ground crazily with a hoe in his hand.

Chapter 2164: It's you?

Ye Wanwan inspected the somewhat familiar figure, her brows furrowing. Why did that figure resemble Si Xia...?

No way. Why would Si Xia appear in this kind of place?

Ye Wanwan strode ahead suspiciously.

The man had an unkempt appearance with dirt pasted to his face, so Ye Wanwan couldn't be certain.

"Si Xia..." Ye Wanwan furtively called to the man.

The man with the hoe instantly reacted and reflexively turned to Ye Wanwan.

"Y-y-you... It's you?!"

Si Xia looked more stunned than Ye Wanwan when he saw her.

Ye Wanwan dumbfoundedly stared at the man in front of her. How did Si Xia get to this state...? No, to be more precise, how did Si Xia appear in the Independent State and get abducted to this wretched place?

She surmised that this island was the same as a prison and its prisoners were nearly all reputable figures from the Independent State. However, Si Xia was... a reputable figure in the Independent State? That didn't make sense.

Before Ye Wanwan could react, Si Xia sprinted toward her with his hoe and tried to hit her.

Instinctively, Ye Wanwan caught the hoe Si Xia swung toward her and flung the hoe along with Si Xia back.

"What are you doing?"

Ye Wanwan surveyed Si Xia with a deep frown, but she figured it out within moments.

In China, she tricked Si Wutian into being arrested, so Si Xia was probably avenging his father.

“Ye Wanwan! Are you mad... Why the heck did you hit me?!”

Si Xia slowly climbed up from the ground.

“Si Xia, about your father...”

Ye Wanwan explained the whole story to Si Xia.

Ye Wanwan couldn't do much about Si Wutian. Si Wutian wanted to kill her, so there was no way she would take it lying down and not retaliate. Moreover, Si Wutian brought everything onto his own self.

Speaking of which, Ye Wanwan didn't hit Si Wutian or curse him. She merely called the police with a flick of her hand, so whose fault was it?

“Si Bayi...”

Si Xia bitterly smiled and shook his head after listening to her explanation. “He brought it on himself. He committed a crime in China, so his capture was to be expected. There's nothing to say about that.”

Ye Wanwan finally relaxed, knowing that Si Xia thought that way.

“Then why were you trying to hit me with a hoe?” Ye Wanwan was puzzled.

“Who the heck was hitting you with a hoe? I merely got excited suddenly seeing a familiar face. Who the hell knows how long I've been imprisoned in this f*cking place... I was just running toward you with a hoe. Who knew what madness struck you and made you hit me?”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

“Oh right, how did you get captured to this d*mn place?” Ye Wanwan looked at him in surprise.

Si Xia sighed. “I learned about the existence of the Independent State and the Si Clan by chance... After my father went missing, I originally intended to come to the Independent State to find him. However... on my way here, I learned from the news that he got imprisoned in China after committing a big crime...”

“After that, I planned to visit the Si Clan, but they said I was the child of some sinner...”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

“Aren't you curious about how I appeared here?” Ye Wanwan asked Si Xia.

Chapter 2165: Continue, I won't disturb you

“What's there to be curious about? After coming to the Independent State, of course I've heard of your great name. Who doesn't know the president of the Independent State's Fearless Alliance...? You hid your identity quite deeply... I couldn't tell...” Si Xia glanced at Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan didn't respond to that. Her fame wasn't a good kind of fame.

“Oh right, how long have you been imprisoned in this place?” she inquired.

“Two months or so,” Si Xia replied.

“So... you should be rather familiar with the situation here?” Ye Wanwan’s eyes brightened.

“Kinda,” Si Xia answered honestly.

“Great, then tell me what’s the situation here and who’s imprisoned here,” Ye Wanwan hastily asked as she sat down next to Si Xia. Right now, she didn’t know anything and coincidentally needed to find someone to spill all the information.

“This is the bottom-most level of the underground prison of the Independent State’s Martial Arts Union. However, this level isn’t underground. Instead, it’s on an island,” Si Xia explained.

Ye Wanwan turned pensive as she listened to Si Xia. Who could’ve imagined the lowest level of the underground prison wasn’t underground and was on a freaking island?

It appeared she guessed correctly.

If the island Si Yehan discovered wasn’t where the Martial Arts Union imprisoned people, there would be a series of trouble. But currently speaking, Asura, the Fearless Alliance, and the entire Nie family had locked their sights onto this island. As long as she cooperated with those leaders on this island and collaborated with Si Yehan and the others from the inside, they could definitely fight their way out easily.

Of course, she might have to become familiar with those leaders before that or else those people would think of her as a madwoman.

“What are you doing here with the hoe?”

A moment later, Ye Wanwan stared at the hoe Si Xia was holding, baffled.

“Digging a tunnel to escape,” Si Xia replied truthfully.

“Dig a tunnel...?” Ye Wanwan stared at Si Xia like he was an idiot. “If I remember correctly... this is an island in the sea. Do you plan to dig 10,000 miles into the depths of the sea?”

“I know it’s an island, but so what? Can’t I have some unhappiness?”

“Oh, um... continue to dig. I won’t disturb you.”

...

News of President Fearless, Bai Feng, being captured and brought to the island spread far and wide within half a day.

In this island prison, after a few days of unrelenting effort, Ye Wanwan successfully befriended those old leaders of the Independent State.

After Ye Wanwan recovered the majority of her memories, many faces surfaced in her mind. Since she had seen most of the leaders who were captured there and had interacted with some of them, tricking them—wait no, befriending them—progressed rather smoothly.

Some days later:

In the rundown cell, Ye Wanwan sat with three people at a table with a brand new deck of cards on the table. Countless powerful big shots from the Independent State stood around them.

The scene of these powerful and mighty big shots, who were once harder to see than climbing to the heavens, nesting together to watch a round of Fight the Landlord with great relish and occasionally give directions... Ye Wanwan didn't know whether to cry or laugh.

"Heh, say, Bai Feng, you've changed a lot after not seeing you for many years. I nearly didn't recognize you," a middle-aged man remarked with a light chuckle as he played a card.

Chapter 2166: Emperor Ji escaped?

"That's right, President Bai has changed a lot these past years. You're a lot better looking than before."

"Keep playing cards, why are you wasting words... hold on, what did you play?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"A pair of sevens."

"Bomb!" Ye Wanwan casually threw down a "bomb."

"Bai Feng, are you freaking mad? We're a team, so why the hell are you bombing me?!" The middle-aged man looked at Ye Wanwan in shock.

"Don't waste time. Do you want it or not?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"I don't."

"Can the landlord follow it?" Ye Wanwan continued.

"I can't."

"A three." Ye Wanwan smiled slightly.

"Bai Feng... you freaking! Careful! We're betting a month of gopher boy... This isn't a joke." The middle-aged man shot Ye Wanwan a glare.

In the end, the middle-aged man discovered that Ye Wanwan only had a single card in her hand and the rest were bombs, so she successfully bombed the landlord into smithereens.

"Bai Feng, you've given me such a big gift after meeting me by making me act as a gopher for you three for a month. Is that proper?" one of the young men asked Ye Wanwan.

"Thank you, thank you. I was just lucky."

Ye Wanwan had a leg propped over her other knee with a smug expression on her face.

"Just looking at your expression makes me angry. If I wasn't good friends with you, I'd definitely turn into your enemy." The young man sighed exasperatedly.

Once upon a time, his faction and the Fearless Alliance were allies in the Independent State, and he was good friends with Bai Feng privately too.

“Oh right, Bai Feng... If I remember right, didn't you go missing? How did you also get captured to this d*mn place?”

Ye Wanwan shrugged. “It's a long story, so I won't go into it. Anyway, I'm captured now, so what's there to say?”

“Indeed. However, I don't know whether I should be happy or unhappy about seeing you here.”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

“Oh right.”

Ye Wanwan looked at the group. “Do you know... the leader of Heavenly Owl, Haitang, and Emperor Ji?”

“Rubbish. Who doesn't know Haitang and Emperor Ji?” a leader responded. He had been watching Ye Wanwan play Fight the Landlord with the other three people.

“Ah, Haitang, she isn't far from us in District A. This is District B. I remember Emperor Ji is also in District A, but I don't think I've heard any news about Emperor Ji recently.”

“No way, why did I hear that Emperor Ji escaped already?!”

“Emperor Ji escaped?!”

Everyone was taken aback.

This island was located worlds apart from the mainland, so who could escape from here? Emperor Ji escaped? What joke was that? Did he swim back?

“I remember there was an idiot last time who wanted to escape from the island. He was quite courageous and directly jumped into the ocean to swim back. However, he wasn't even halfway before he swam back and discovered the place where the Martial Arts Union stored their supplies...”

“Which idiot was that lucky?” Ye Wanwan was intrigued.

“I think he's called Si something... Was it summer or?autumn¹? I can't remember...”

Ye Wanwan: “...”

“So the cards we're using right now are from that storehouse?” Ye Wanwan inquired curiously.

“Precisely! We were captured here to be prisoners. Do you think someone would throw in a deck of cards for us to play with?”

“Aside from cards, there was also a lot of medicine and some other random stuff. Anyway, that lad did a good deed.”

Ye Wanwan turned pensive.

Chapter 2167: Extraordinary idiocy

Compared to the supposed storehouse they found, what Ye Wanwan cared about more was the news that Ji Xiuran escaped from the island...?

When she was being transported to the island, she observed that even the boat ride took a long time, so how did Ji Xiuran escape?

Before Ye Wanwan could think deeper, a woman whose long hair reached her waist entered. When the woman saw Ye Wanwan, astonishment entered her eyes, and she called, "Xiao Feng!"

Ye Wanwan immediately looked back.

The newcomer was none other than Haitang.

When Ye Wanwan first arrived in the Independent State and pretended to be President Fearless, she once met Haitang at a gathering between the major factions.

Although Haitang acted very passionately back then too, Ye Wanwan hadn't recovered her memories yet and had no idea who Haitang was, so she didn't converse with Haitang for too long and made up an excuse to leave.

However, upon seeing Haitang again now, Ye Wanwan's emotions were different from before.

This woman was her best friend in the Independent State, and she was both a teacher and a friend.

When the Fearless Alliance was first founded, she received valuable assistance from Haitang.

"Eh, Haitang's here... Gimme a kiss."

A leader's eyes sparkled when he saw Haitang.

"Scram."

Haitang shot a look at the man who spoke before pulling Ye Wanwan and dragging her outside.

"Haitang, you're still so violent and tyrannical... I'll love you till I die..."

Ye Wanwan: "..."

Is love all he has in his head...? Can't he take a look at his circumstances first? A boss is seriously a boss. They have extraordinary idiocy.

...

Soon, Ye Wanwan followed Haitang to the island's District A.

From Haitang's description, Ye Wanwan learned that this island was divided into three major districts—A, B, and C—and the people of each district typically didn't interact with other districts and rarely ran into other people.

District A was where Haitang and her group were located while Ye Wanwan was previously at District B. As for District C, it was much farther away on the other side of the island.

"How did you get captured here?" Haitang hastily asked Ye Wanwan.

“Forget about that right now. Haitang, where’s Ji Xiuran?” Ye Wanwan pressed.

“Xiuran has left the island already,” Haitang responded.

Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded. *?He really escaped?!*

How did Ji Xiuran do it???

“No way, right... How did he escape?” Ye Wanwan asked.

“Who do you think Ji Xiuran is? They wanted to trap him on this little island? I’m afraid it’s not so easy,” Haitang answered.

“Um, there was no followthrough after Ji Xiuran escaped?” Ye Wanwan was puzzled. With Ji Xiuran’s personality, he shouldn’t have abandoned his friends.

“Ji Xiuran said the Martial Arts Union might not have any intentions of harming us, so he told us not to worry for now,” Haitang said.

“...”?Ji Xiuran’s logic is rather unique...

The Martial Arts Union imprisoned us on this island already, yet he thought they still don’t have any intentions of harming us?

However, on second thought, why didn’t the Martial Arts Union directly kill them but imprison them on this island instead...? What was the Martial Arts Union’s objective for doing this?

“Oh right, here’s a letter for you. Ji Xiuran told me to give it to you.”

Haitang pulled out a letter and handed it to Ye Wanwan after a moment of thought.

“No way right... Ji Xiuran knew I would get captured here?” Ye Wanwan was astonished. *?Don’t tell me Ji Xiuran is a clairvoyant...*

Chapter 2168: The secret in the letter

“It wasn’t that he foresaw you getting captured here. It was just that I needed to hand this letter to you whether you came here or I eventually escaped,” Haitang explained.

Ye Wanwan didn’t dither and opened the letter.

It had to be said that Ji Xiuran’s handwriting was outstanding. In contrast, her handwriting was composed of scribbles.

“You mustn’t investigate the matter relating to the Direct Line anymore. Remember that... In truth, I don’t have a grand dream. I just want a plot of good field and a simple life. I want to engage in small business and live plainly.”

These brief words were enough to make Ye Wanwan dumbstruck in her spot.

He told her to stop investigating the Direct Line and also mentioned a plot of good field... and a simple life...

Could some celestial being come down from the heavens and tell her what Ji Xiuran's letter meant and what he wanted to convey?

Why didn't he want her to investigate the Direct Line?

Furthermore, what the heck did "a simple life" mean? She didn't understand it at all, alright?

And even if there was a reason behind this, he should've at least informed her of the reason, right?

Upon seeing Ye Wanwan's peculiar expression, Haitang asked curiously, "What is it...? What did he write?"

"Haitang, you didn't read Ji Xiuran's letter to me?" Ye Wanwan responded.

Haitang shook her head. "Never. Ji Xiuran intended this letter for you, so why would I read it without your permission?"

Ye Wanwan naturally didn't doubt Haitang's character.

She immediately handed the letter to Haitang. "See for yourself, Haitang."

Haitang accepted Ji Xiuran's letter with a puzzled expression.

A moment later, her brows furrowed together.

"Can you... understand what Ji Xiuran tried to say?" Ye Wanwan asked the other woman.

"Eh... I really don't." Haitang shook her head.

Why did Ji Xiuran mention the Direct Line out of nowhere?

Moreover, what did a plot of good field, conducting some business and living simply mean...? Those words didn't seem to connect to the earlier instructions for Ye Wanwan to stop investigating the Direct Line at all.

Ye Wanwan sighed exasperatedly. Was Ji Xiuran giving her a decryption game...?

Unfortunately, her intelligence was limited and she seriously couldn't figure out what information Ji Xiuran was trying to give her.

Truthfully, couldn't he have spoken more straightforwardly?

"Did Ji Xiuran leave any other words for me?" Ye Wanwan inquired.

"Not really. However... during his deduction, I think Ji Xiuran mentioned there had to be a mysterious person who formed a connection with the Direct Line behind the scenes, and that mysterious person most likely isn't a member of the Direct Line. Instead, he must be in the dark giving directions... and perhaps even using the Direct Line to accomplish something," Haitang answered after some thinking.

"A mysterious person?"

Ye Wanwan was pensive. Was it the mysterious person who Third Elder said Nie Linglong had gone to see in the middle of the night...? And also the person who kept wanting to steal her ring?

Ye Wanwan didn't wasn't certain whether that mysterious person was a member of the Direct Line or using the Direct Line. She had no idea. However, Ji Xiuran's speculation was completely on point on one matter.

The mysterious person really did use the Direct Line to have them steal her ring.

Based on Ji Xiuran's deduction, Ye Wanwan deducted something else.

The mysterious person definitely knew the ring she wore represented the paramount power of the Rose of Death and the owner of this ring could command the Rose of Death and become their new Eric.

Chapter 2169: Vital clue

However, Ye Wanwan previously obtained a rather useful piece of information from Big Dipper's mother.

Only members of the Rose of Death knew what this ring represented, and only someone with deep connections with the Rose of Death could know that obtaining this ring was the same as becoming the new leader of the Rose of Death.

In other words, that mysterious person definitely wasn't unfamiliar with the Rose of Death.

In the midst of Ye Wanwan's contemplation, Haitang softly asked her, "Did you think of something?"

Ye Wanwan lightly shook her head. "Not yet."

Being able to pinpoint a person just based on this amount of information was absolutely a pipe dream.

Forget about pinpointing someone. Ye Wanwan still had no idea whether this mysterious person was male or female, old or young, tall or short, fat or thin.

What made Ye Wanwan's head hurt the most right now was whether the letter Ji Xiuran left for her had anything to do with this mysterious person or not.

If it didn't, what was Ji Xiuran trying to convey? If it did, what was the meaning and what was the goal?

Ye Wanwan felt her head swelling like a balloon.

"Haitang, are there any other clues?" Ye Wanwan asked Haitang.

Right now, every minute thing that Ji Xiuran left behind could be a vital clue, so Ye Wanwan didn't want to overlook any useful information.

"Mn, during Ji Xiuran's deduction, he was in a flustered state and was even agitated... He wrote down many things but shredded everything," Haitang answered.

"Are the shreds still here?" Ye Wanwan hastily questioned.

For some reason, Ye Wanwan had a feeling that valuable clues were left behind in the paper that Ji Xiuran shredded.

"They haven't been cleaned out yet. I'll take you there."

...

Soon, Ye Wanwan and Haitang arrived at the storehouse.

“This is the storehouse that Si Xia discovered?”

Ye Wanwan looked surprised as she assessed the spot.

“You know Si Xia?” Haitang asked casually.

“Mn...” Ye Wanwan nodded.

“He’s quite lucky and discovered this reserve storehouse. There are many useful items in here, medicine being the most abundant,” Haitang said with a smile.

As Haitang spoke, she brought over all the paper shreds that Ji Xiuran shredded.

Ye Wanwan was exasperated when she saw the scraps.

They were indeed shredded—too shredded even.

“Let’s piece together all these scraps and see if we can find some useful information,” Haitang suggested.

“Okay.”

Ye Wanwan and Haitang started working.

After some time passed, Ye Wanwan and Haitang speechlessly met each other’s eyes.

It might look like a simple task but it, in fact, required a herculean amount of effort. Piecing these shredded pieces of paper together was no walk in the park.

The only saving grace was that Ji Xiuran’s handwriting was very clean and proper and highly distinguishable.

“Sigh, thank goodness... If it was me who wrote it, even Jesus wouldn’t be able to piece it together,” Ye Wanwan remarked with a shake of her head.

Haitang smiled in response.

The afternoon turned into the next morning, and after staying up the whole night without sleeping, Ye Wanwan and Haitang finally patched the shredded pieces of paper into a semblance of its original appearance.

However, the things Ji Xiuran wrote on the paper baffled Ye Wanwan further.

Forget about Haitang; it would probably be useless regardless of who they called over to take a look.

The contents of Ji Xiuran’s scrap paper did contain some significance, but no one could understand the significance.

“It’s actually like that... Could it be the hypnotism lost its effect... or perhaps... too much time passed after the hypnotism... so they remembered everything again and finally returned...”

Ye Wanwan was unable to ascertain anything from the contents of the paper but managed to grasp a few key points.

Hypnotism.

Time.

Remember again.

Return.

...

Chapter 2170: Definitely nothing good

Ye Wanwan and Haitang studied the pieced-together paper for half a day but unfortunately couldn't glean any clues from it.

The sky was turning dark, so Haitang could only escort Ye Wanwan back to District B first and give the matter further thought.

When the duo arrived at the entrance of the prison, they ran into Si Xia, who was returning with his hoe.

Ye Wanwan looked at Si Xia's dirty appearance and recalled his appearance when he was revered as the school prince and god at Qinghe High School back then, mesmerizing countless girls. She couldn't help but muse inwardly: *The past is unbearable to recall.*

I can't keep looking at this...

As soon as Si Xia saw Ye Wanwan like that, he knew her old habit had kicked in. He wiped the dust from his face and snorted. "You still care about your looks in a place like this? How leisurely and carefree you are!"

Ye Wanwan raised her brows. "So what? Even if I'm at the guillotine, if the executioner is good-looking, I would die more comfortably, no?"

Si Xia: "..."

Even Haitang was at a loss for words. "..."

The trio entered the enormous cell one after the other.

Si Xia had been there for a rather long time and he performed a meritorious deed by discovering the storehouse, so some leaders enthusiastically greeted him as soon as he entered. "Eh, Si?Chun¹? is back! Any reaps today?"

Ye Wanwan nearly choked on her own spit after hearing that. "Si... si?chun¹?"

Si Xia exploded the second he heard those two words. "I'm called Si Xia! SI! XIA! Do you have dementia in your old age, huh?! How many times do I have to say it?!"

The leader broke into laughter as he kept playing cards with another person sitting opposite of him. "Eh, chun and xia are about the same, about the same..."

How was it about the same?

Ye Wanwan was inwardly laughing at Si Xia's indignant appearance when a familiar-looking leader walked toward her.

The leader's hair was braided behind the back of his head and a signature beard was kept on his chin. Ye Wanwan recognized him to be the leader of Four Seas Gate, Zhao Gao.

"Heh, President Bai, long time no see!" Zhao Gao greeted with a laugh.

Ye Wanwan calmly smiled in response and answered, "It has indeed been a long time. I trust you've been well since we last met, Gate Leader Zhao?"

"Heh, I've been good! President Bai, sorry for disturbing you, but Boss He wants to see you!" Zhao Gao waved his arm towards a certain direction.

Ye Wanwan automatically followed the direction of Zhao Gao's arm and saw a man sitting on the only decent quality leather chair in the prison.

The man looked to be in his forties with a pair of turbid eyes, emanating a dark chilliness that made people very uncomfortable. His stare toward Ye Wanwan especially made her feel like a venomous snake had its sight set on her.

Ye Wanwan had to think hard to remember to this man was... the leader of Hong'an Gang, He Biao.

Hong'an Gang didn't possess a great advantage over other famous gangs in terms of overall strength, but He Biao had an elite assassin squad under him whose reputation shook the entire Independent State, so no one dared to trifle with him.

This squad was passed down to every leader of the Hong'an Gang. In fact, a vice president of the Martial Arts Union once died at the hands of this assassin squad.

Ye Wanwan had been there for a few days without any trouble. She didn't expect him to initiate contact with her today.

When the people in the prison heard He Biao wanted to speak with Ye Wanwan, the room turned silent and everyone secretly peered at the two people.

"Worriless, be careful! There's definitely nothing good coming from this He Biao!"

Ye Wanwan sent Haitang a pacifying gaze before calmly walking toward He Biao. "May I ask what instructions you have, Boss He?"