

## Secret Love 2231

### Chapter 2231 The culprit is someone else

"President!"

Before Ye Wanwan could think about it more deeply, Third Elder pushed the door open and entered.

"What is it?" Ye Wanwan turned to Third Elder.

"President, there's an old man here asking to see you by name," Third Elder replied.

"By name?" Ye Wanwan was startled. Which name and which surname?

"He said he wants to see the old president's granddaughter, Worryless Nie." Third Elder appeared to have guessed what Ye Wanwan was thinking.

"Got it. Bring him inside," Ye Wanwan agreed with a nod.

...

A moment later, an elderly man walked into the office and examined Ye Wanwan for a long while.

"Leave," Ye Wanwan said to Big Dipper and Third Elder.

They nodded and walked out of the office, closing the door behind them.

"Are you... really the old president's granddaughter, Worryless Nie?" the elderly man inquired with a hint of misgiving.

"The genuine one," Ye Wanwan answered.

"As they say, a girl changes eighteen times between childhood and womanhood... You're different than before." The elderly man sighed. "May I sit down?"

"Sit," Ye Wanwan said.

The elderly man sat down on a chair before asking, "Worryless, do you still remember me?"

"May I ask who you are?" Ye Wanwan wrinkled her brows. She really didn't have any recollection of this elderly man.

"Years ago, I was responsible for the inner security system in the Martial Arts Union. My name is Wang Lai," the elderly man replied.

"Wang Lai..." Ye Wanwan looked pensive.

A moment later, her expression shifted. "You're Uncle Wang?"

Back then, there was indeed a member named Wang Lai in the Martial Arts Union. When Ye Wanwan was bored, she frequently sought him out to get her hands on some gossip.

"That's right, Worryless. I didn't expect you to still remember me..." Wang Lai nodded.

"Why did you seek me out this time, Uncle Wang?" Ye Wanwan cut straight to the chase.

Wang Lai sank into silence and slowly began a long while afterward. "This matter... has been hidden in my heart for many years. I've actually been searching for you all this time. Thankfully, the Nie family recently announced that President Fearless was Worriless Nie, so I found out you were back. I visited the Fearless Alliance several times, but the Fearless Alliance was emptied, and I didn't see you when I camped near the Nie residence. In the end, I heard you might be here..."

"Uncle Wang, let's not beat around the bush. What is the matter?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"Worriless, it's about the old president." Wang Lai sighed.

"Grandpa...?" Ye Wanwan looked at Wang Lai. "Tell me."

"Back then, the new president said you killed the old president... but actually, that's not the case!" Wang Lai looked emotional.

Ye Wanwan frowned deeply. "That's not the case?"

"Correct!" Wang Lai nodded with conviction. "Worriless, you did injure the old president, but the culprit who killed the old president was someone else!"

"Who?!" Ye Wanwan hastily pressed.

"I'm not certain about this part." Wang Lai looked sorrowful. "Back then, I was hiding in a secret spot and saw you running out then the old president followed you outside, covered in blood. I was really worried and wanted to dash toward him to check on his injuries... but suddenly, a mysterious person wearing a black robe appeared... It was him! He killed the old president!"

Ye Wanwan's expression changed. Could it be... that black-robed man from the Direct Line?!

"Later, the new president acceded to the position... I wondered if it was the new president who killed the old president in order to get promoted... I was scared, so I withdrew from the Martial Arts Union... Sigh, it's my fault for being too cowardly. If I had the courage to stand up and fight with the black-robed person back then, perhaps the old president wouldn't have died... It's all my fault!"

### **Chapter 2232 The northern battlegrounds**

Ye Wanwan glanced at Wang Lai. If he was more courageous back then, she probably wouldn't be able to see him now.

"Miss Worriless, you must be careful. The new president claims you're the old president's killer, but I feel it's possible the true killer is the new president. Of course, this is just a possibility and my personal speculation," Wang Lai warned her.

Ye Wanwan nodded calmly.

After Wang Lai left, Ye Wanwan fell into contemplation.

Back then, she merely thought she injured Grandpa and never thought Grandpa would die since that little wound couldn't even be considered a serious injury to Grandpa.

After injuring Grandpa, her mind turned blank and she didn't know how to face Grandpa, which was why she fled from the Martial Arts Union.

She never expected to later learn from Si Xia that Grandpa was killed by her.

Just now, Wang Lai suspected Si Xia to be Grandpa's true killer, but Ye Wanwan didn't think so.

First of all, Ye Wanwan had a fair understanding of Si Xia. Si Xia's affections for Grandpa ran very deep, and he was basically raised by Grandpa since he was young. Even if they took a step back and Si Xia really intended to kill Grandpa, that wasn't too realistic considering Si Xia's strength. Grandpa might've been injured by her at that time, but Si Xia still wasn't a match for Grandpa.

However, if it was as Wang Lai said, and it was that black-robed person...

At the Fearless Alliance headquarters last time, Ye Wanwan exchanged blows with that black-robed man from the Direct Line. That man's strength was unfathomable. If the black-robed person that Wang Lai spoke of was the same black-robed person from the Direct Line, then... it wasn't impossible that the black-robed man killed Grandpa, based on his strength.

However, this was mere conjecture, and Ye Wanwan couldn't be certain.

What she was certain of was that Grandpa's death was related to a black-robed person. She merely couldn't ascertain whether this black-robed person was the same black-robed person who stole her ring.

"Xiao Feng."

Before Ye Wanwan could mull over this anymore, Autumn Water entered.

Not long after the Rose of Death was established, Ye Wanwan sent Autumn Water to their headquarters to manage it.

Ye Wanwan gathered her thoughts and looked at Autumn Water. "Is there any news from the Direct Line or the Collateral Branch?"

Autumn Water nodded and replied, "Both sides are locked in a fierce struggle and the battleground is situated in the northern front. Many factions from the Independent State have headed there and joined this battle already."

"What about Piece of Sh\*t?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"He hasn't been spotted yet." Autumn Water shook her head. "The current situation is a bit chaotic. When will we depart, Xiao Feng?"

"Autumn Water, use the Rose of Death's name to announce support for the Collateral Branch," Ye Wanwan instructed.

"Okay." Autumn Water nodded and left.

That day, the Rose of Death publicized its unconditional support of the Collateral Branch and its resistance toward the Direct Line.

At the same time, every member of the Rose of Death made its way to the northern front and arrived at the battlegrounds in the afternoon.

...

The war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch was more intense than Ye Wanwan anticipated.

After arriving at the northern battlegrounds, Ye Wanwan first met up with Si Yehan and the others.

On the northern front, Prison didn't mingle with the other factions, and even their war room was located in a different place.

Currently, inside the conference room:

Si Yehan was sitting in the chief seat and listening to Jiang Lihen's babbling analysis for the situation without making a single comment.

### **Chapter 2233 It's not as warm as your arms**

Meanwhile, Ye Wanwan sat next to Si Yehan and nearly fell asleep.

"Say... Can't you guys respect me a little?" Jiang Lihen's gaze landed on Ye Wanwan. "Especially Worriless Nie. I'm analyzing the current situation—can't you look at me and express some opinions? If you want to sleep, go home and sleep!"

Ye Wanwan shifted her eyelids and yawned before looking at Jiang Lihen in bewilderment. "Your analysis is very correct."

The corners of Jiang Lihen's brows twitched. "I haven't freaking started analyzing anything yet! I've just been giving a summary of the situation!"

"Oh..." Ye Wanwan nodded. "Your summary analysis is very good."

"You...!" Jiang Lihen turned to Si Yehan, fuming with rage between gritted teeth. "Ah-Jiu, can't you control your woman? She's at least one of Prison's four core factions now. Can't she be less half-hearted?"

Si Yehan glanced at Ye Wanwan. "Should I get a blanket for you?"

"No need. No matter how warm a blanket is, it's not as warm as your arms," Ye Wanwan replied softly.

"Mn..." Si Yehan hummed.

Jiang Lihen looked at Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan, dumbfounded. Why are these two here?

Did they come here to fight a battle or go on a date? Isn't their atmosphere a bit inappropriate?

Jiang Lihen stared at Si Yehan incredulously. This man wasn't the Ah-Jiu in his memory anymore...

"Continue." Si Yehan told Jiang Lihen.

Jiang Lihen sighed exasperatedly and had no choice but to continue. "Right now, the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch haven't gone all out in their offense yet. For example, people like Piece of Sh\*t from the Direct Line haven't appeared yet and the Collateral Branch also hasn't shown all of its trump cards yet. Moreover, the Martial Arts Union has yet to announce their support of either side. The Martial Arts Union's strength can't be underestimated, so it'd be a problem if something unforeseen occurred."

Si Yehan nodded, his gaze fixed on Ye Wanwan still.

“Is that all?” Si Yehan finally asked after waiting for a while as Jiang Lihen didn’t say anything else.

“Yes, that’s all,” Jiang Lihen replied.

“We know everything you said already.” Si Yehan paused in thought for a moment. “The Direct Line is situated on the border between the northern region and the Independent State. If the Direct Line’s army steps inside the boundaries, it’d be the same as entering the Independent State. Right now, the most important objective is to guard the border.”

As soon as Si Yehan finished speaking, Ye Wanwan started clapping. “What baby said is too awesome! His single sentence is clearer than that ugly freak’s non-stop rambling.”

“Mm.” Si Yehan nodded lightly.

“Who are you calling ugly freak?” Jiang Lihen angrily glared at Ye Wanwan. “You have late-stage eye cancer!”

“...” Ye Wanwan was speechless. Was this idiot only ever focused on his appearance? She was clearly trying to say his analysis skills were bad, alright?

“Ah-Jiu, so you’re saying Prison should head to the border right now.” Xie Qianchuan was contemplative.

Si Yehan answered, “Mm.”

“Alright, I understand Ah-Jiu’s meaning. We really can’t allow the Direct Line to break through the border. Let’s go prep.” After saying that, Xie Qianchuan stood up and left.

“Hmph.” Jiang Lihen glared at Ye Wanwan with a harrumph before following Xie Qianchuan and leaving.

“Baby, I’ll also go set up.” Ye Wanwan made to leave.

“You don’t need to go,” Si Yehan suddenly said.

“Eh?” Ye Wanwan was startled. Why didn’t she need to go?

“Baby, aren’t you worrying too about me? I’m the President of the Fearless Alliance.” Ye Wanwan pouted.

### **Chapter 2234 Eating her sense of shame for food?**

Si Yehan looked at Ye Wanwan. “So which side does the Fearless Alliance support?”

“Of course it’s...” Ye Wanwan paused.

F\*ck me!

The Fearless Alliance supported... the freaking Direct Line!

She was President Fearless, so she definitely couldn’t lead the Rose of Death to attack the Direct Line...

“You can make commands with a walkie-talkie,” Si Yehan suggested.

Ye Wanwan: "..."

This was a battle that concerned the future of the Independent State, but she couldn't show her face and could only make commands using a walkie-talkie?!

...

Two days later, a large-scale battle erupted on the border. The three core factions of Prison appeared at the same time and destructively attacked the Direct Line.

After that, more and more factions joined the battle, including Piece of Sh\*t—Yi Shuihan.

Following Yi Shuihan's appearance, the situation took a turn, and members of the collateral ancient clans suffered serious casualties, continuously forced back in defeat by the Direct Line.

However, the only fortunate part was that Yi Shuihan didn't attack any factions aside from the collateral ancient clans. Like Yi Shuihan said before, he merely targeted the ancient clans from the Collateral Branch.

At noon that day, to the surprise of the Direct Line and Prison, Ye Wanwan actually went to the border as the Fearless Alliance's representative and ran over to the Direct Line's camp...

...

In the Direct Line's camp, Ye Wanwan finally saw the clan leader of the Direct Line, an elderly man past his 50s, Jiang Ying.

In the Direct Line's camp, Jiang Ying expressionlessly looked at Ye Wanwan. "Why did you come here, President Bai?"

Ye Wanwan grinned and pulled out the alliance treaty. "Clan Leader, what are you saying? My Fearless Alliance signed an alliance treaty with the Direct Line. I came here to fulfill my obligations."

Several elderly men from the Direct Line angrily glared at Ye Wanwan.

This woman nearly angered one of their higher-ups, Elder Xue, to death. Now, she came here as if nothing happened and said she wanted to support the Direct Line and fulfill her obligations?!

"Weren't you going to sue the Direct Line at the Arbitration Council?" Jiang Ying asked.

"That's a different matter. You didn't fulfill your obligations, but I have to fulfill mine, am I right?" Ye Wanwan cheerfully replied.

"Fulfill what obligations? What use is it to only have you on our side?" a higher-up demanded.

"I can't do anything about that. I'm the only one left in the Fearless Alliance. I'd also like to bring a giant army here, but they've been subsumed under that knockoff Rose of Death. Speaking of which, isn't the Direct Line to blame for this? Yet you're making a fuss about this? Why are you this shameless?" Ye Wanwan glanced at the elderly man who spoke.

"You..."

The elderly man's face flushed red from Ye Wanwan's retort. He wanted nothing more than to mangle Ye Wanwan into pieces.

Ye Wanwan's lip curled up into an indescribable smile.

She came here today simply because she was worried about Si Yehan and the others. Since she couldn't appear with the brand Rose of Death above her, she'd appear as the President of the Fearless Alliance.

Anyway, she signed an alliance treaty with the Direct Line, so they wouldn't carelessly harm her.

"Alright, since you have those intentions, President Bai, help yourself. However, I still have to remind you to not make any ill-advised moves on the battleground between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch or else you'll only injure yourself." After saying that, Jiang Ying turned and left.

...

The next morning, Ye Wanwan followed the Direct Line's army and appeared on the battleground.

"This f\*cking Direct Line wants to use me as cannon fodder, huh..." Ye Wanwan chortled.

Unfortunately, she simply came here to watch a show, so the Direct Line would be daydreaming if they wanted to use her as cannon fodder.

### **Chapter 2235 Pure-bred idio**

At this moment, many factions from the Independent State were gathered near the border.

This included the four great clans, the three core factions of Prison, the Rose of Death, the ancient clans from the Collateral Branch, etc.

When everyone saw Ye Wanwan mixed into the side of the Direct Line ancient clans, they were startled.

"Worriless, what are you doing?!" Patriarch Nie yelled with a frown.

"Dad, we're from different camps, so we'll each serve our own masters!" Ye Wanwan shouted back.

"..."

"D\*mn! She really is something. In order to go to the battleground to watch the show, she's tossed away her pride and actually make her way to the Direct Line's army... I have to give it to her." Jiang Lihen gave her a thumbs-up.

Si Yehan stared at Ye Wanwan for a long while but didn't say anything in the end. It wasn't a big deal that Ye Wanwan infiltrated the Direct Line since he already gave instructions to the Collateral Branch. No one would bother Ye Wanwan, so she could have some fun and watch the show if she wanted to.

The Direct Line and the Collateral Branch didn't waste any words and started fighting.

Ye Wanwan was incredibly free on the battleground. The people from the Direct Line left her alone while the people from the Collateral Branch also ignored her completely.

When Ye Wanwan was about to sit back and crack some seeds, she saw Big Dipper entering a grapple with someone from the Direct Line and was soon struck to the ground.

Ye Wanwan rapidly dashed up and blocked the Direct Line expert.

“President Bai, what are you doing?” the Direct Line expert demanded coldly when he saw Ye Wanwan.

“You traitor, I’ve finally caught you!” Ye Wanwan shouted at Big Dipper instead, ignoring the Direct Line expert.

Big Dipper’s eyes shifted. “President, I’m turning into a traitor! I want to join the Direct Line!”

Ye Wanwan was stunned and inwardly cursed out Big Dipper and the last eighteen generations of his ancestors.

He’s a pure-bred idiot!

At a time like this, he should act like he’d rather die than submit, then she’d explode with wrath and make the Direct Line expert hand Big Dipper over to her to take care of... However, after hearing “I’m turning into a traitor” from Big Dipper, Ye Wanwan didn’t know how to respond next.

“Heh. President Bai, I’ll take care of a fence sitter like him for you.” The Direct Line expert snorted and started walking forward.

Ye Wanwan promptly caught the Direct Line expert unaware and kicked him to the ground.

Upon seeing this, Big Dipper agilely leaped up and pounced onto the Direct Line expert, bestowing a flurry of punches on the man.

“Bai Feng... you... you’re violating the Arbitration Council’s alliance treaty!” the Direct Line expert yelled.

“Be quiet! Stuff his mouth for me!” Ye Wanwan ordered hastily.

“Okay!” Big Dipper immediately clutched the Direct Line expert’s mouth and made him lose consciousness with a few more punches.

“You idiot...” Ye Wanwan shot Big Dipper a glance.

Big Dipper was started, confusion filling his face. “How was I an idiot?”

“Quiet... Thank goodness there aren’t a lot of people here. Do you know what a big freaking risk I took to save you?!” Ye Wanwan couldn’t control the fury surging in her.

Big Dipper snickered and didn’t dare to respond.

If this incident was discovered by people from the Direct Line, the consequences would be inconceivable. She would obviously be outed as a spy...

Ye Wanwan merely wanted to watch the show, but she might turn from a show-watcher into a traitor... How exciting.

“Don’t worry, Sis Feng! He’s my hostage, so I’ll definitely make sure he can’t say anything. I’ll leave now...”

After saying that, Big Dipper picked up the unconscious Direct Line expert and disappeared into the fray.

...



The battle continued.

Faced with wave upon wave of experts from the Collateral Branch, Yi Shuihan was evidently getting exhausted.

Although Yi Shuihan solely targeted the ancient clans from the Collateral Branch, it didn't mean other factions wouldn't attack Yi Shuihan.

### **Chapter 2236 Quietly watch me perform?**

Soon, the black-robed man from the Direct Line finally joined the battle.

Following the black-robed man's appearance, the Direct Line instantly intensified their attack in an attempt to break through the order in a spurt of energy.

However, experts from the collateral ancient clans swarmed out like a hornet's nest, and the northern battlefield turned into a pit of carnage and bloodshed, resulting in countless fatalities.

On the battlefield, Ye Wanwan's eyes glinted chillingly as she stared at the black-robed man.

This man not only caused her brother's death... and might also be her grandpa's killer!

"I'd like to see just who you are!"

Ye Wanwan yelled and swiftly shot toward the black-robed man.

"Bai Feng, what are you doing?!"

An expert from the Direct Line pulled Ye Wanwan back and shouted, "Are you planning to violate the alliance treaty?!"

Ye Wanwan snorted at that. "I have a private grievance with him. Anyway, he said before that he isn't a member of your Direct Line. Our alliance treaty clearly states that you don't have the right to interfere with non-Direct Line factions."

Ye Wanwan added, "Moreover, did I attack? Don't you see how he's besieged by a dozen elites from the collateral ancient clans? I'm going over there to help him."

"Help him?" The Direct Line expert was startled. Based on her attitude, it looked nothing like she was going to help!

Before the expert could say anything else, several elites from the Ji family rushed forward and started fighting the expert.

Ye Wanwan withdrew from the scene and secretly approached the black-robed man.

Every spot that the black-robed man touched, "not even a blade of grass grew". His attacks were very extremely vicious and countless experts from many factions died in his hands.

With the black-robed man's appearance diving up the pressure, Yi Shuihan's situation relaxed quite a bit, and he directly advanced into the inner circle of the collateral ancient clans.

As Ye Wanwan watched the scene, she discovered something was amiss.

There was originally a power differential between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, but after the addition of the black-robed person, the strength of the two parties was nearly the same.

Logically speaking, if both parties had similar fighting strength, the number of casualties shouldn't increase this quickly...

However, under the trigger of the black-robed person, the Direct Line's arrow was locked on the bow already, and they could only continue to exhaust their fighting force in this manner.

Ye Wanwan could tell both the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch were suffering unspeakably.

"If you continue to fight like this, even if we win... how many people will we have left?"

Jiang Ying said to the black-robed person using a walkie-talkie.

Jiang Ying was incredibly dissatisfied about the black-robed person's fighting method.

"Clan Leader Jiang," the black-robed person answered with a snort. "As they say, don't doubt people you use and don't use people you doubt. Since you chose me, you should trust me, shouldn't you?"

"I'm not doubting you, but with a tactic like yours, what's the point even if we defeated the Collateral Branch?" Jiang Ying retorted with a frown.

The black-robed man's combat strategy was too radical. What the Direct Line wanted was to defeat the Collateral Branch and claim dominance over the Independent State.

However, the black-robed man's strategy would clearly lead to them perishing together with the Collateral Branch.

"Heh..." The black-robed man chuckled. "Clan Leader Jiang, don't worry... Right now, I possess the battle command over the Direct Line. You just need to quietly watch my performance. I'll definitely give you a satisfying outcome..."

"I hope so," Jiang Ying replied.

...

Right now, whether it was the groups supporting the Direct Line or the factions supporting the Collateral Branch, they were all afraid and angry with the black-robed man.

### **Chapter 2237 Both familiar and unfamiliar**

The black-robed man's fighting technique didn't allow any chance of survival for other people, not even the Direct Line. Did he want to take every group in the Independent State, including the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch, down with him?

Ye Wanwan watched the black-robed man. This man was truly too dangerous and was a radical and belligerent character. He didn't care about the fate of the Direct Line he was leading at all...

The battle intensified as time passed.

Every faction in the Independent State sustained heavy losses. Neither the Direct Line nor the Collateral Branch gained a trace of advantage and reaped nothing but enormous losses.

If they continued to fight like this, every person would be killed and at that time, the Independent State would turn into an empty shell.

All the factions started to sway and started to regard the black-robed man as an enemy.

Even people from the Direct Line were unwilling to listen to the black-robed man's supposed combat strategy or lend a hand when the black-robed man was besieged.

At this moment, the black-robed man was completely surrounded by a dozen or so experts from the collateral ancient clans.

However, while these experts were strong, they still couldn't subdue the black-robed man.

Ye Wanwan couldn't help but shake her head. Where the heck did these experts come from? There were a dozen of them, but they couldn't even win against one person.

"Blah! Twelve versus one! How extremely shameless of you!"

Ye Wanwan insulted the dozen or so experts from the collateral ancient clans.

"I'm from the Direct Line's side. I came to help you."

As Ye Wanwan spoke, she leaped up and landed next to the black-robed man. She promptly attacked the experts of the collateral ancient clans.

The dozen or so experts from the collateral ancient clans became puzzled. What in the world was Worriless Nie doing...

"Since you're serious... we'll fight back!" an expert shouted coldly at her.

They were going easy on this woman in every way they could, but she attacked extremely fiercely.

Ye Wanwan didn't explain and imperceptibly surveyed the black-robed man instead.

Soon, Ye Wanwan found an opportunity and the dagger in her hand ruthlessly pierced toward the black-robed man.

However, the black-robed man reacted immensely quick and tilted slightly back in a fraction of second.

Although the dagger didn't take his life, it hit him with a "bang," and the wooden mask over his face was knocked off by the dagger.

When Ye Wanwan saw the remarkably familiar face under the mask, she froze in her spot and her mind turned blank, forgetting to breathe...

That pretty face with an inscrutable smile was very familiar but also extremely unfamiliar.

Ye Wanwan never expected this face to be underneath the mask.

A face that she missed with every fiber of her being.

"You've turned more and more astute," the man quietly commented with a smile.

Nearby, the four great clans turned to the man. When they saw the mysterious black-robed man's true appearance, their astonishment wasn't any less than Ye Wanwan's.

No one expected that vicious and malevolent black-robed person to have such a familiar face.

A greater surprise was that this man had actually appeared and also with this identity.

Just what in the world was he thinking...? Why did he do something like this...? What was his objective...?

"Ah-Jiu, that person... isn't he..."

Xie Qianchuan glanced at the black-robed man near Ye Wanwan before quickly turning to Si Yehan next to him.

### **Chapter 2238 Am I still the hero in your heart?**

Following Xie Qianchuan's words, shock also covered Jiang Lihen's face. "Ah-Jiu... No way, right? Why is it him? What is he doing?"

Si Yehan's expression was the same as always as he looked at the black-robed man. There wasn't a single ripple in his eyes, as though he predicted this outcome already.

"It appears it's time to make your decision," Si Yehan uttered expressionlessly sometime later.

"Decision?"

Both Xie Qianchuan and Jiang Lihen were startled. They were clueless about what decision Si Yehan referred to.

"Ah-Jiu, who is making decisions?" Xie Qianchuan asked.

Si Yehan glanced at Ye Wanwan in the distance and replied aloofly a moment later, "Her, me, and us."

...

The black-robed person looked at Ye Wanwan, the corners of his lips turning up with an indescribable smile. "You're probably very surprised, right?"

"Brother..."

Ye Wanwan trembled as she stared at the black-robed man.

Ye Wanwan never expected her to see that mighty hero in her heart again in her lifetime... especially in this kind of situation.

"How about it? Look now, is Brother still your hero?" Nameless Nie asked her with a light chuckle.

"D\*mn punk, are you crazy?!"

Patriarch Nie shouted harshly at Nameless Nie from the crowd.

Patriarch and Madam Nie both couldn't recover their wits after seeing Nameless Nie. Didn't... Woriless tell them Nameless Nie accepted a big job and went abroad to do a mission...?

Could it be that the big job Nameless Nie supposedly accepted was assisting the Direct Line?

In other words, Nameless Nie was hired by the Direct Line?!

“You wretched b\*stard, did your head get kicked by a donkey?! You had the guts to accept a job from the Direct Line?!” Patriarch Nie angrily cursed.

Nameless Nie furrowed his brows, his icy gaze landing on Patriarch Nie. “Can you shut your mouth?”

“What... did you say?!” Patriarch Nie was stunned. Nameless Nie... wants me to shut up?

Before Patriarch Nie could respond, Ye Wanwan shook her head at him, signaling him to remain quiet.

Patriarch Nie gritted his teeth but didn't say anything else.

Ye Wanwan turned back to Nameless Nie.

She seemed to understand something...

Or perhaps she should say that the instant she saw Nameless Nie, all of her confusion dissipated.

Back in China, when Nameless Nie first had someone come to steal her ring, the target was solely the ring, and there was never any intention to harm her.

“Brother, in reality, you probably know this ring is a fake, right?” Ye Wanwan asked him.

Nameless Nie smiled faintly. “What is real and what is fake?”

“If I guessed correctly, you forged this ring yourself.” Ye Wanwan was contemplative.

“You're truly my sister. Your guess is correct.” Nameless Nie nodded.

Nameless Nie's forging skills were extremely good. Back in China, when Ye Wanwan first met Nameless Nie, he had a stall set up on the ground, and all the valuable forged creations there were crafted by Nameless Nie himself.

“In reality, this ring doesn't have any relations to the Rose of Death... but that's not completely true. It's probably a lovers' ring... with Aunt's ring, right?” Ye Wanwan questioned.

“That's right. I made it myself,” Nameless Nie confirmed with a smile.

### **Chapter 2239 Aun?**

The past surfaced in Ye Wanwan's mind following Nameless Nie's words.

Back then, Nameless Nie left home when he was young and was sent to a distant relative, Second Grandma, for education purposes.

Second Grandma was a distant younger cousin of Clan Leader Ling. Although she held the same seniority as Clan Leader Ling, she was nearly 30 years younger than him.

However, Second Grandma was extraordinarily talented in martial arts, was extremely courageous, and was an outstanding teacher for the younger generation.

Hence, back then, Clan Leader Ling didn't obtain Patriarch Nie and Madam Nie's approval before sending Nameless Nie to Second Grandma.

Second Grandma was a very strict teacher. Nameless Nie underwent a lot of suffering but gained a plethora of skills.

Second Grandma had one daughter named Ling Miao. Ling Miao was a generation above Nameless Nie and was considered his aunt, but she was a similar age to Nameless Nie.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to call those two childhood sweethearts, and they got along very well.

Soon, Nameless Nie returned to the Independent State but never broke contact with Ling Miao.

Ye Wanwan once heard Nameless Nie mention that he and Aunt Ling Miao fell in love...

The first time Ye Wanwan saw Ling Miao... was actually when Ling Miao was assailed by various factions of the Independent State. It was Grandpa's plot that killed Ling Miao...

Grandpa used Nameless Nie's life to threaten Ling Miao... and made her meet him on her own.

Ye Wanwan still vaguely remembered that Ling Miao had a very sweet and spirited appearance but her temperament was the complete opposite. She was exceptionally apathetic, akin to a ball of ice, and very hard to get along with if you were an outsider.

Before Ling Miao died, she personally handed the ring that represented the supreme power in the Rose of Death to Ye Wanwan and asked her whether Nameless Nie was safe or not...

To this day, Ye Wanwan still couldn't forget Ling Miao's content expression after learning Nameless Nie wasn't in any danger.

That was where Ye Wanwan's memory left off.

In the past, Nameless Nie was outstanding and his intelligence wasn't inferior to Ji Xiuran's.

However, after her memory was replaced and she saw Nameless Nie again, he had changed. It was as if he had turned into a different person.

When she returned to the Independent State and restored her identity as Nameless Nie, her parents told her Nameless Nie was traumatized in the past...

Now though, connecting this to the letter Ji Xiuran left behind for her...

The letter read: "I don't have some grand dream. I just want a plot of a good field and have a simple life, do some small business and live ordinarily."

Thinking about it now, Ji Xiuran used this very obscure sentence to indicate the truth.

He was referring to Nameless Nie!

That was why Ji Xiuran reminded her in his letter to stop investigating the matter...

Additionally, on Ji Xiuran's shredded pieces of paper, he actually wrote down the truth and the process.

Nameless Nie's personality didn't change because of a previous trauma. The truth was that he was hypnotized by Ji Xiuran...

It was very possible it was Ji Xiuran who made Nameless Nie forget about this memory segment.

But the paper also said that the hypnotism failed and he was back...

What that probably meant was that Nameless Nie's willpower was too strong, so he recalled his past again...

"It was Ji Xiuran who hypnotized you, right?" Ye Wanwan asked Nameless Nie.

Nameless Nie smiled faintly. "I have to say that Xiuran's talents in hypnotism are unparalleled. I told him I'd bring destruction on every faction in the Independent State that participated in Ling Miao's massacre, but he disapproved and even hypnotized me... After the hypnotism, I forgot about her and only thought about earning money and becoming rich, as though I was possessed."

Nameless Nie continued, "This ring is very similar to Ling Miao's ring. It's a lovers' ring that I made myself and has nothing to do with the Rose of Death. However, after I was hypnotized, I forgot about this ring too, so I took it off and tossed it somewhere in the Nie residence. Otherwise, how could you have stolen it?"

#### **Chapter 2240 True objective**

Ye Wanwan intently stared at Nameless Nie. After a long silence, she finally spoke. "In truth, Ji Xiuran's hypnotism on you lost its effect a long time ago, right?"

Nameless Nie nodded. "Although the hypnotism was impressive, it didn't last too long in reality. It only lasted half a year."

"So when you came to find me in China, you weren't hypnotized anymore," Ye Wanwan proposed pensively.

Nameless Nie smiled. "That's right. But when I first met you in China, I merely thought you looked like Worriless and really didn't recognize you."

"Then... just what did you come to China to find?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"I just wanted to find you; there weren't that many reasons. And also to find the ring, of course," Nameless Nie replied truthfully.

Ye Wanwan didn't rebut him. The ring Nameless Nie was wearing might've been crafted by him and was completely unrelated to the Rose of Death. It held enormous meaning to Nameless Nie.

This ring represented his relationship with Ling Miao.

Ye Wanwan believed that Nameless Nie absolutely wouldn't agree if she tried to use her ring to trade for his ring.

"Then... why did you make the Direct Line steal the other ring?" Ye Wanwan asked him.

“Very simple.” Nameless Nie smiled faintly. “If I possessed that ring... I would be able to mobilize a lot of power and destroying the Independent State would be a piece of cake.”

“But why did you give up in the end?” Ye Wanwan launched another question.

Nameless Nie sank into contemplation.

“What else could I do?” A while later, Nameless Nie shook his head. “You would rather die than hand it over. Should I have really killed you for that ring?”

“I see...” Ye Wanwan nodded lightly.

Everything was very clear now.

Back then, after Ling Miao died, Nameless Nie sank into madness, wanted to avenge Ling Miao and annihilate every faction that participated in Ling Miao’s encirclement.

But these factions encompassed nearly all of the Independent State.

Nameless Nie originally sought out Ji Xiuran so that Ji Xiuran could lend him a hand, but Ji Xiuran didn’t have the heart to do it and was unwilling to watch Nameless Nie be in such agony, so he used hypnosis to make Nameless Nie forget about that memory segment. Furthermore, Ji Xiuran changed Nameless Nie’s personality into a businessman who worshiped money like his life and only liked to earn money.

This way, Nameless Nie would be running around every day and busy with earning money, never getting tired of it. This should be considered a fortunate outcome for Nameless Nie.

However, what Ji Xiuran didn’t expect was that Nameless Nie’s willpower was truly too formidable and Ji Xiuran’s hypnotism lost its effect in a mere half a year.

From the moment Nameless Nie recalled everything, he used his disguise as the black-robed person to become the Direct Line’s military counselor and helped Direct Line regain control over the Independent State.

The truth of the matter was now clear at a glance.

The Direct Line also participated in Ling Miao’s encirclement back then.

The reason Nameless Nie was willing to help the Direct Line was so that he could trigger the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch as soon as possible.

Nameless Nie was well aware that once the war between the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch began, all the factions in the Independent State wouldn’t be able to stay out of it and all had to participate.

As for Nameless Nie’s true objective, it was to make the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch eradicate each other and perish together, including all the factions who supported the Direct Line and the Collateral Branch.

As she thought up to this point, a layer of sweat blanketed Ye Wanwan’s forehead.