Secret Love 2451

Chapter 2451

The girl bounded toward him like a ball of sun, illuminating the entire world in his eyes.

Si Yehan's eyes were brimming with a gentle warmth, but when his gaze landed on her bare feet, his brows furrowed. "Why aren't you wearing shoes?"

He hastily leaned over and picked up the girl.

Closely following behind Ye Wanwan were Haitang and Autumn Water's panting voices as each carried a shoe.

Autumn Water: "Sh*t! How could you run out here like this?! What kind of bride acts like this?"

Haitang: "Why can't you follow the formula?"

"If I followed the formula, would I still get married? Do you know how difficult it was for me to abdu—ahem, be able to get married to my baby?"

Ye Wanwan was being carried in Si Yehan's arms, but she didn't forget to relay her commands. "Why are you standing there? Make way!"

"Yes... Yes... Sis Feng..." Big Dipper hastily scrambled to lay out the red carpet.

Gong Xu cowered as soon as he saw Ye Wanwan and also miserably carried the flower basket and scattered rose petals for her.

Shen Tianchen and his mercenaries also feebly shrunk to the back...

In the end, due to direct interference from the bride, Si Yehan successfully entered the house.

...

After carrying out ceremonial components of the wedding, everyone headed to the wedding venue.

"There's someone else getting married inside today," Yi "SpongeBob SquarePants" Shuihan said.

"What? Didn't we book the whole venue?" Ye Mufan was surprised.

"I don't know," Yi Shuihan replied.

When they reached the theme park, the reception staff hastily came out.

"What's going on? Didn't we book the whole venue? There's someone else getting married inside?" Gong Xu was very unhappy.

The manager was soaked with sweat. He was well aware of this group's background, and they did reserve the whole park...

However, they had no choice. There was also another fearsome figure getting married today, and their background was also powerful. The staff didn't dare to provoke either of them...

"Sorry, I'm truly sorry, but we had no choice. How about this—all fees will be on the house today... Can you please compromise a little...?" the manager asked.

"On the house...? Do you think I don't have that money?!" Ye Mufan was instantly enraged. This wasn't a matter of money!

"Um, can I ask how much the fees will be?" Nameless Nie instantly asked.

After learning the amount, Nameless Nie looked at Ye Mufan and the others. "It's such a large venue! There's enough room for 20 couples to get married, so why are you acting so unreasonable?"

Ye Mufan "..." So it's my fault, huh?

"Return the money to my account later. Does that work?" Nameless Nie suggested to the manager in good humor.

"Yes yes yes! That's not a problem at all!" The manager nodded vehemently.

...

"Hurry and enter the park!"

Nameless Nie waved his hand and acted like a leader.

Everyone could only follow Nameless Nie inside the wedding venue and changed into the stuffed costumes waiting for them.

Originally, there would've been enough costumes, but since there was another group using some, there weren't enough costumes remaining.

Ye Wanwan's eyes turned. She didn't forcefully demand the other guests to wear costumes but made everyone from the Independent State change into the stuffed costumes so that they wouldn't cause any trouble at the wedding venue. They could at least get a break with the costumes on.

Tut tut, she was seriously too clever! This was the best method to seal someone's martial strength!

Ye Wanwan herself changed into a Little Red Riding Hood outfit while Si Yehan was outfitted as the Big Bad Wolf.

And so, a majestic parade of dolls entered the castle.

Chapter 2452

However, as soon as everyone entered the castle, they were dumbfounded. It was packed with people and a couple appeared to be getting married inside. The groom was a "Garfield" while the bride was an extremely beautiful girl dressed as a princess.

Aside from the Garfield groom and princess bride, the other wedding guests were all wearing costumes. There was Mickey Mouse... Donald Duck... as well as some weird unrecognizable characters...

"Huh, SpongeBob SquarePants?! It's you again?! Are you here to cause trouble again?!"

"Donald Duck" stared at "SpongeBob SquarePants" Yi Shuihan and broke into shouts.

Ye Wanwan was dumbfounded. What happened?

"Earlier... Yi Shuihan remembered the time wrong and came here first... I'm guessing... he caused havoc at their wedding..." Lin Que said as he slid to Ye Wanwan's side.

Ye Wanwan facepalmed. What kind of sin did she commit?!

If she'd known, she shouldn't have asked Tangtang to invite him.

"But it's not our fault! We reserved this park ahead of time, but they insisted on cramming in here too," "Briar[1]" Jiang Lihen said.

"We reserved this place! So we're already nice for not beating you up when you shamelessly stuffed your way inside!" "Bramble[2]" Big Dipper ridiculed them.

"What...? Beat us up?" The Garfield groom snorted.

"What? You're unhappy? You better stifle it even if you're unhappy! If there wasn't a wedding today, I would've killed you with a punch!" shouted "Bramble."

Ye Wanwan was exasperated. While that was true... they didn't pay a single cent! Didn't the manager already say that? They were going to return the money to Nameless Nie, so right now, they were actually using the other group's venue.

"Hmph. Today was originally going to be a good day, but this is so irritating."

The Garfield groom had just said that when everyone shockingly watched Garfield stop in front of Bramble (Big Dipper) extremely fast and kick Big Dipper, not giving the other man any time to react.

"That's to teach you a lesson," Garfield said.

"Misunderstanding, it's all a misunderstanding..." Ye Wanwan quickly said.

Today's my big day, alright? Can't they take a break?!

They were dressed like this already but still insisted on fighting!

"Hm, I remember you. Didn't we meet at KFC?" Garfield asked, turning to Ye Wanwan.

Ye Wanwan was startled. When she first came to China with Big Dipper, Seven Star, and Third Elder, they did go eat at KFC once.

Ye Wanwan suddenly remembered that man who was absurdly powerful and more beautiful than a woman...

She also vaguely remembered the man had a girl with him and the girl called him God or something like that...

"You freaking dare to hit me?! I'm gonna kill you!"

Bramble Big Dipper immediately dashed toward Garfield and swung a punch at him.

However, a second later, Bramble was struck back by Garfield with a single move again.

"Why are you standing around? Help me hit him!" Bramble Big Dipper screamed.

Upon hearing that, all the Fearless Alliance experts charged toward Garfield in their cartoon costumes.

What surprised Ye Wanwan was that the Fearless Alliance experts, including the elders, couldn't even get near Garfield and were all sent flying back a few seconds later.

How could this man be so powerful...?

All these people were experts from the Fearless Alliance, yet they turned into soggy pieces of paper in front of him?

"Hm, SpongeBob SquarePants! Get your ass over here and accept your death!" Garfield hooked his pointer finger toward SpongeBob SquarePants Yi Shuihan.

- [1] Briar is the first bear brother from the animation Boonie Bears
- [2] Bramble is the second bear brother from the animation Boonie Bears

Chapter 2453

"You're provoking Piece of Sh*t?"

Everyone couldn't help but laugh in ridicule. This person was probably suicidal.

SpongeBob SquarePants immediately walked forward.

All the guests watched as Garfield and SpongeBob SquarePants got entangled together.

From Garfield's side, Donald Duck, Mickey Mouse, and some others all started fighting with Big Dipper, Jiang Lihen, and the others. The scene was rather ugly as a myriad of experts in cartoon costumes had started brawling with each other in utter disarray. Some experts accidentally tumbled to the ground and continued to attack their opponents while rolling around.

Ye Wanwan didn't know whether to cry or laugh as she watched this.

Bam!

A giant noise sent Ye Wanwan reeling back to reality.

Ye Wanwan watched incredulously as SpongeBob SquarePants Yi Shuihan was forced to retreat several steps.

This was the first time in Ye Wanwan's life that she saw Yi Shuihan ending up disadvantaged.

"Lil Sh*t, you aren't doing so hot!" Patrick Star Nameless Nie pointed at Yi Shuihan and laughed.

"Heh, as if you're doing any better." Garfield glanced at Patrick Star and swung his soft and fluffy cat paw toward Patrick Star.

"Are you bullying me for not having any hands?!" Nameless Nie seemed to also be riled up after being forced several steps back too.

Ye Wanwan stared closer. It was exactly as he said... The Patrick Star costume really didn't have any hands. He was just a pink starfish...

"I'll beat you to death!"

"Patrick Star" mercilessly headed toward Garfield headfirst.

However, Garfield caught Patrick Star's head.

Seeing this, "SpongeBob SquarePants" dashed forward and barreled Garfield several steps back.

Soon, SpongeBob SquarePants Yi Shuihan, Patrick Star Nameless Nie, and the Garfield groom rolled into a chaotic scuffle.

"D*mn it... Lil Sh*t, you hit me!"

"I couldn't see..." SpongeBob SquarePants Yi Shuihan said.

"Hit that Garfield's head... EH... Why are you hitting my head?! He has a big head, and I have a small head... Are you blind?!"

"Huh? I'm too fat..." Garfield said.

"I don't have hands!" Patrick Star Nameless Nie said.

"I couldn't see well..." SpongeBob SquarePants Yi Shuihan said.

Nameless Nie, Yi Shuihan, and Garfield tussled for ages. One would hit the other's chest and their crotch would be struck in return, resulting in no outcome even after all the fighting.

Instead, it was Bramble Big Dipper and "Donald Duck's" fight that intensified.

"Eldest Senior Brother! Come and help me! This brat has a lot of helpers!" Donald Duck shouted at Mickey Mouse.

"I'm wearing glasses, so it's not convenient." Mickey Mouse heartlessly rejected Donald Duck.

"Eldest Senior Brother, Second Senior Brother... D*mn it, stop fighting! Today's a joyful day..." a Pikachu shouted.

The speaking Pikachu was a girl and she had an incredibly melodious voice.

"Little Junior Sister, Thunder Bolt! Electrocute this d*mn bear for me!" Donald Duck shouted.

Pikachu yelled, "Do you really freaking think I can release 100,000 Volts?!"

All the dolls present: "..."

The dolls from the Independent State never expected to witness someone this martially strong in China, especially that Garfield. His strength couldn't be described! SpongeBob SquarePants and Patrick Star actually had to team up on him!

Chapter 2454

"Mommy, I'm scared. Briar's head was knocked off by Donald Duck..."

Shortly after, a mini version of Pikachu timidly spoke as it grabbed the bigger Pikachu's tail.

As soon as Pikachu saw the scared mini Pikachu, she was infuriated.

Pikachu patted the little Pikachu on the head before sinking her energy into her dantian and furiously roaring at Garfield. "Stop fighting! If you keep fighting, you don't have to bother getting married!"

Garfield froze. Instantly, SpongeBob SquarePants grabbed him by the ear and Patrick Star grabbed his nose.

"Mn... I want to get married today. I don't want to fight... What are you all doing?" Garfield demanded.

"My younger sister is getting married!" Patrick Star Nameless Nie answered.

"My disciple's mom is getting married," SpongeBob SquarePants Yi Shuihan replied.

A person, who was actually wearing a bok choy costume, walked over to the big and small Pikachu and shouted, "It's all a misunderstanding. Everyone, please stop fighting!"

"Enough! Stop fighting!" Ye Wanwan also yelled exasperatedly.

Everyone had no choice but to stop at once.

"You d*mn bear," Donald Duck cursed at Bramble.

"You d*mn duck!" Bramble Big Dipper also retorted, not to be outdone.

Donald Duck: "..."

Duck? That sounded weird...

Why did he feel like he was the one worse off?

After everyone stopped, Ye Wanwan finally learned the entire story of the matter.

It turned out Yi Shuihan went to the wrong location and thought the princess bride was her while Garfield was Si Yehan.

Then... Not only did he leech food and drinks from them, but he also wrecked their almost concluded wedding and messed up the process, so the other group had to restart...

"Sorry... We're really sorry. We originally reserved the whole venue... so SpongeBob SquarePants thought we were the only group here."

Haitang apologized to Pikachu.

"It's fine. It's all a misunderstanding, and we were also in the wrong. Hurry on then. Don't delay yourselves," Pikachu said.

"Hmph... Handless one and blind one, don't let me see you again!" Garfield shouted.

The handless Nameless Nie: "D*mn fatso, don't let me see you again! I'm going to hit you every time I see you!"

The blind Yi Shuihan: "Mm."

...

After this all-out costume brawl ridiculousness concluded, everyone finally returned to their respective themed castle.

As soon as Ye Wanwan's group entered their castle, stimulating music started to blast out.

"I walked by myself in the countryside. I'm bringing some sweets for my grandma to taste. She lives somewhere far and remote, so I have to worry if there's a big bad wolf nearby. When the sun sets over the mountains, I have to hurry home and step into dreamland with my mom."

"I walked by myself in the countryside. I'm bringing some sweets for my grandma to taste. She lives somewhere far and remote, so I have to worry if there's a big bad wolf nearby..."

"Sh*t... rock and roll version of Little Red Riding Hood?!" Lin Que was stunned. "Why does it sound so demonic?!"

"Frigging awesome..." Big Dipper gave a thumbs-up. "How could Sis Feng's version of Little Red Riding Hood not be demonic? She's probably a Little Red Riding Hood who carries a backsword on her shoulder while riding a motorcycle and chugging liquor!"

This was a freaking staggering opening!

"Eh, it's actually nothing. Didn't you hear it... That Garfield is playing KFC's theme song at his wedding?"

Everyone: "..."

"Daddy, Mommy, I wish you a joyous marriage and eternal bliss!" a small gray wolf doll said in a childish voice after walking over to Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan.

Ye Wanwan patted the small gray wolf on the head and hugged him. "Thank you, baby. Mommy loves you to death!"

Chapter 2455

"From now on, Tangtang can proudly say he attended his dad and his mom's wedding." Ye Mufan chuckled mischievously.

After saying that, Ye Mufan wanted to cry. If he dared to have a child before marrying, his parents would've broken his legs eons ago! However, when they learned Wanwan's child was so old already, not only did they not shout at her, but they even cried from delight and celebrated joyously!

Soon, the rock and roll version of Little Red Riding Hood finished and the solemn Wedding March started playing. Ye Wanwan and Si Yehan, who had switched into a wedding dress and suit respectively, also walked up onto the stage hand in hand and received congratulations all around.

...

When the wedding ceremony was about to conclude, Haitang walked toward Ye Wanwan. "Worriless... It's time for me to give you an item."

Ye Wanwan was startled. "What item?"

Haitang pulled out a USB and handed it to Ye Wanwan. "Your marriage still needs congratulations from one person."

"Who?" Ye Wanwan asked.

"Ji Xiuran," Haitang replied.

"Ji Xiuran..." Ye Wanwan murmured.

That man still hadn't appeared to this day.

Ye Wanwan immediately met Si Yehan's eyes. Si Yehan patted her hair and plugged the USB in.

Under everyone's watch, the giant screen lit up.

The man appeared to be located inside a warehouse. He was wearing a white shirt with an incredibly familiar and warm smile hanging on his face.

A mere glance was all it took for Ye Wanwan to recognize the setting as the island that once imprisoned everyone.

"Sister Wanwan, hello."

When Ye Wanwan heard Ji Xiuran's form of address for her, she was startled.

Ji Xiuran had always called her Worriless, so why did he call her Wanwan here?

Perhaps because he expected she'd hold her wedding in China, right?

Ye Wanwan kept listening.

Ji Xiuran's lips turned up. "If I guessed correctly, you're probably getting married today, right..."

After saying that, the man faced the camera but remained silent for a long time.

"Congratulations on finding your true home. I believe that your other half can guard and protect you for the rest of your life," the man continued with a smile a moment later.

"I'm very sorry and regretful I might not be able to personally attend your wedding. But thankfully, there's equipment here that can allow me to leave behind a token to express my congratulations to you."

"You don't need to worry about me. In truth, I've liked someone for a while. I originally wanted to let her live her life without worries, but unfortunately, I shouldered too many burdens. I couldn't fulfill my promise to her in the first half of my life... but I've decided that I will return to her side in the second half of my life and will never leave or abandon her until death strips me away."

"The current me has probably left the Independent State to be with her. She likes ordinariness and placidness, free from the conflicts of the world. This is also the life I wish for."

"Si Yehan, some things are hard-earned. I hope you can treasure it well. If you dare to let down my sister one day, I'll turn you into ashes."

"Wanwan, remember, you must smile no matter what the future holds."

"Farewell."

...

Below the stage, Haitang sighed softly.

In the end, Ji Xiuran still wasn't able to let go of his final conviction.

Otherwise, why would he call her Wanwan instead of Worriless in his congratulatory video?

He still couldn't call someone else's bride "Worriless"...

Chapter 2456

[Memory Volume:]

The northern part of the Independent State was nearly devoid of human life.

Standing at a spot was a youth in a snow-white shirt whose long, ink-like hair casually draped to his waist. He resembled a celestial being that belonged in a painting.

"Young Master, there's news from the southern battlefield."

A teenager strode toward the youth.

"Mm." There wasn't a ripple in the youth's eyes and there was an almost imperceptible smile hanging from his lips.

"The Ji family achieved an overwhelming victory... on the southern battlefield..." The teenager's face was brimming with astonishment as he looked at the youth.

He utterly couldn't imagine how this youth in front of him could command an army and concoct all kinds of brilliant strategies, playing and spinning both of the Ji family's strong enemy factions in circles. The final stroke of dissension he sowed was practically perfect.

If it weren't for this youth, the Ji family's battles would've probably lasted at least two more years.

This youth was the eldest son of the Independent State's Ji family—his name was Ji Xiuran.

When the teenager was Ji Xiuran's age, he was still wet behind the ears and ignorant about the world's affairs.

However, Ji Xiuran was exceptional. He possessed an extremely high intellect and profound shrewdness. His martial technique and strategic capabilities had achieved the pinnacle of perfection already.

The youth in front of the teenager...

Was close to being a god...

"Young Master, how should we take care of the Zhou family's eldest son?"

The youth turned around and surveyed the giant box sitting in the back of the car for a moment.

"Kill him," Ji Xiuran ordered aloofly.

The teenager was startled.

The Ji family had two mortal enemies: The Zhou family and the Tong family.

Right now, the contents of the box was the eldest son of the Zhou family, whom Ji Xiuran had just captured.

Although the Ji family had won on the southern battlefields, if they killed the Zhou family's eldest son right now, the Ji family would probably receive ferocious retaliation from the Zhou family. At that point, the Tong family would reap the spoils without doing anything and the gains wouldn't make up for the Ji family's losses.

"Young Master, are we really killing him?" the teenager asked hesitantly.

Ji Xiuran was expressionless. "I hired the Tong family's mercenaries with Ah-Ming's identity to help me escort this item. The route heads northwest. The Tong family mercenaries won't suspect anything."

"What do you mean, Young Master?" The teenager was confused.

"Having been defeated this time, the Zhou family will naturally send a large number of scouts into the northwest front. If the Zhou family discovers their dead eldest son amongst the Tong family's mercenary team, what would happen?" the youth replied calmly.

The teenager shivered immediately.

The Zhou family and the Tong family... would fight until one perished...

Even if the Tong family wanted to explain, with a seed of doubt planted by Ji Xiuran, the Zhou family wouldn't believe the Tong family; they would only believe that it was the Tong family who killed their eldest son.

Moreover, the Ji family had supposedly been preoccupied on the southern battlefield and didn't have the time to attack the Zhou family's eldest son.

"Ah-Ming."

Ji Xiuran turned to a middle-aged man.

"Stay here and hand this box to the Tong mercenaries and follow behind. Remember, you need to intentionally be detected by the Zhou family's scouts. When the time is right, you can leave," Ji Xiuran said.

"Understood..." The middle-aged man agreed.

The teenager finally understood his young master's purpose.

This Ah-Ming was a steward of the Tong family who was bribed by Ji Xiuran. Earlier, the teenager was still wondering why Ji Xiuran bribed someone from the Tong family.

Ah-Ming didn't have any status in the Tong family and was merely an ordinary steward. In the teenager's eyes, there was no need to bribe someone like him.

...

The teenager handled the still-unconscious eldest son of the Zhou family inside the box with ease before leaving Ah-Ming and the box behind. He then followed Ji Xiuran and left.

"Young Master, that's brilliant!" Halfway there, the teenager gave Ji Xiuran a thumbs up. "Ah-Ming is a junior steward in the Tong family and isn't connected to the mercenary business in any way. If he's discovered by the Zhou family's spies... the Tong family won't be able to explain themselves!"

Chapter 2457

Ji Xiuran had two objectives for bribing Ah-Ming.

He employed mercenaries from the Tong family side branch using the identity of a steward from the Tong family's main branch, which lowered the guard of the Tong mercenaries. Then, the Tong mercenaries wouldn't be suspicious or intentionally open the box to check it.

"Young Master, I didn't expect... everything to be accounted for within your plan. This way, the Tong family will fight to the death with the Zhou family, and the Ji family won't be threatened by these two families anymore... Just when did you make these preparations?" The teenager was brimming with admiration as he stared at the handsome youth.

"While you were sleeping," Ji Xiuran answered aloofly.

The teenager released an embarrassed chuckle before asking, "But what if Ah-Ming betrays us, Young Master? What would we do?"

Ji Xiuran softly replied, "His whole family is in my possession."

"Brilliant!" The teenager gave a thumbs-up. "The Zhou family and the Tong family have acted abominably and committed all kinds of evil deeds. Those two b*stard families really thought they were invincible and dared to offend our Ji family. Evil people truly have other evil people tormenting them..."

It wasn't until Ji Xiuran shot him a glance that the teenager realized his words were remiss and he looked embarrassed.

Before the teenager could explain, a girl's blood-curdling scream was heard in the distance.

The teenager furrowed his brows and reflexively turned to the origin of the sound.

A girl in a leisurely outfit was sent crashing to the ground, but her grip around her dagger remained tight.

Next to the girl was a man dressed like a mercenary.

"Whose child are you? You look 11 or 12 at most, but why would you come asking for death for a mercenary fee?" The mercenary apathetically stared at the girl he knocked to the ground. "Tell me who sent you here and I can spare your life."

...

"Young Master, it looks like a bountied defected mercenary," the teenager reported to Ji Xiuran.

These defected mercenaries were very common in the Independent State. Most of them had committed some terrible deed then defected from their group, so their group would offer a bounty on their heads.

"Heh, how old is that girl? She looks only 11 or 12, no? But she actually dared to seek trouble from a defected mercenary. How suicidal." The teenager shook his head. "Young Master, let's hurry and leave—eh, Young Master... where are you going...?"

The teenager hastily followed when he saw Ji Xiuran walking toward the girl.

"Oh? You have companions? No wonder," the defected mercenary remarked coldly with a glance at the girl when he saw a youth approaching.

The girl also turned to look at the youth, confusion surfacing in her eyes. She didn't know this good-looking youth.

"Tell me, who sent you three here? Or perhaps your mind became muddled from the mercenary reward?" The defected mercenary glanced at the youth, his voice glacial.

However, the youth ignored him and stopped next to the girl and knelt down gracefully. His eyes—brilliant as the starry night—met the girl's eyes.

"Is your name Worriless?" The youth adopted a gentle tone.

"How did you know?" The girl nodded, her expression curious.

"Three years ago, you and Grandfather Nie visited my house." Ji Xiuran smiled and softly patted her hair. "Have you forgotten?"

"You are... Brother Xiuran?" The girl's eyes instantly lit up.

"Does it hurt?" The youth touched the girl's slightly swollen cheek.

"No..." The girl shook her head after a moment of silence.

"Are you three truly suicidal?" A murderous intent arose in the defected mercenary when he saw the youth and girl talking in front of him as if he wasn't there.

"Noisy."

The youth frowned and took the girl's dagger.

Before the defected mercenary could realize what had happened, a cold glint flashed and the dagger pierced a fatal spot in his body as fast as an arrow leaving its dock.

The next second, the defected mercenary's body dropped to the ground and stopped moving after a brief convulsion.

To his death, incredulous fear was printed on his face.

Chapter 2458

"What a blind thing!"

The youth kicked the defected mercenary's corpse away before looking at the girl.

His Young Master had just said this girl was Worriless—Worriless Nie from the Nie family...

"Eh, Miss Worriless, why are you here by yourself?" The youth was bemused.

The girl remained silent.

Ji Xiuran smiled faintly. That question was superfluous.

With Worriless' grandpa's personality, he must've intentionally ordered Worriless to come here to train her mental strength.

Speaking of which, Worriless' grandpa must be nearby, and he would've immediately shown up if Worriless was really in any danger.

"Let's go," Ji Xiuran said to the girl with a gentle smile.

However, a blush dusted over the girl's cheeks, and she wouldn't get up.

From the corner of his eyes, Ji Xiuran discovered that she was wearing only one shoe. The other shoe was probably lost in the scuffle.

"I lost my shoe..." the girl finally replied a long while later, her cheeks red.

"It's fine. Come, Miss Worriless, I'll carry you!" the youth offered.

However, the girl still didn't move.

"Come up," Ji Xiuran said softly as he knelt down.

The girl's blush deepened immediately, but she wrapped her arms around the youth's neck and was carried on his back.

"Brother Xiuran, where are we going?" the girl asked.

"I'm taking you home," Ji Xiuran replied with a faint smile.

"Okay." The girl nodded.

•••

After walking a moment, the trio stopped to rest next to a stream.

Ji Xiuran sat down next to the stream and used the water to wash his hands before asking the girl, "Are you hungry?"

"Mm, a little..." the girl answered.

"Ji Yue." Ji Xiuran turned to the teenager next to him.

"But Young Master, this is your lunch..." Ji Yue anxiously protested.

Ji Xiuran wrinkled his brows.

Ji Yue jolted in fright and could only hand Ji Xiuran's lunch to the girl. It contained taro as well as some vacuum-sealed cooked beef.

Ji Xiuran picked up the taro and peeled off the skin before handing it to her.

"Brother Xiuran, you eat." The girl drooled as she stared at the taro.

Ji Xiuran smiled at her expression and patted her on the head. "It's fine, I'm not hungry. You eat it all. Don't waste it."

"How can you not be hungry... You haven't eaten all day," Ji Yue quietly grumbled not too far away.

When the girl was done eating, Ji Xiuran bent down and carried her on his back again. The trio disappeared into the distance.

...

Whenever Worriless Nie thought about the day she officially met Ji Xiuran, she couldn't help but get lost in her thoughts.

At the courtyard in the Ji Estate's back hill:

Many years later, the youth and the girl became a thing of the past.

Worriless Nie stared at the intently-reading Ji Xiuran and pursed her lips. "Great Sage."

"You're here."

Ji Xiuran was snapped out of his concentrated state and set down the book, turning to Worriless Nie with a smile.

"D*mn, it's a classic. Are you really trying to be a sage?" Worriless Nie teased.

Ji Xiuran didn't get angry and merely chuckled. "I have nothing to do, so I can only admire the ancients' wisdom."

Worriless Nie approached Ji Xiuran. "Who doesn't know our Brother Xiuran's strategic expertise is beyond description? I'm afraid the ancients' wisdom will soon fall behind you, Brother Xiuran."

"Worriless, I heard you recently created a group called the Fearless Alliance." A warm smile hung on Ji Xiuran's lips.

"Eh... You know?" The girl was startled.

"What? I'm not enough to play with you? You still need the Fearless Alliance?" Ji Xiuran leaned closer to the girl, his eyes exceptionally bewitching and soul-stealing.

Chapter 2459

Worriless Nie stared at the man's bewitching eyes which were as vast as the galaxy. For some reason, she felt her heart starting to race and a blush creeping over her cheeks.

How could this man be so good-looking? He was utterly spellbinding...

"Play with what?"

Worriless Nie hastily looked away.

When Ji Xiuran saw Worriless Nie's reaction, he chuckled and dotingly patted her on the head like he did when they were young. "I can do anything you want."

"I'm hungry. Cook a meal for me," Worriless Nie said.

"I don't know how." Ji Xiuran shook his head.

Worriless Nie: "..."

"But I can learn." Ji Xiuran smiled at her. "Follow me."

"Where are we going?" Worriless Nie asked with intrigue.

"The kitchen." Ji Xiuran then walked away.

...

In the kitchen of the Ji Estate:

"Young Master!"

When all the servants bustling around the kitchen saw Ji Xiuran, they were astonished. Why did Young Master come to this kind of place?

"Miss Worriless."

Everyone promptly greeted Worriless Nie as well.

"Are you hungry, Young Master? What do you want to eat? We'll prepare it immediately."

Ji Xiuran replied, "No need. All of you can leave."

"Yes."

They didn't know why, but no one dared to question or disobey Ji Xiuran's orders.

Soon, Ji Xiuran and Worriless Nie were the only two people left in the enormous kitchen.

After the servants retreated, Ji Xiuran started searching for ingredients in the kitchen.

"I remember... You like to eat sweet-and-sour spare ribs." Ji Xiuran turned to Worriless Nie.

"You know what I like to eat...?" Worriless Nie found that strange.

Ji Xiuran merely smiled but didn't respond.

Worriless Nie watched the man bustling around the kitchen, acting completely unlike the famous demon of the Ji family who awed the people of the Independent State. He was also acting unlike a man who was about to become the emperor of the entire underground dynasty and didn't have any bit of arrogance. He was akin to a boy-next-door who shone like the sun, both warm and comforting.

In this world... as long as she had him, as long as he was here, all would be fine...

From the beginning, he was the only one she wanted.

"Brother Xiuran, you aren't really cooking, right?"

Worriless Nie stared at Ji Xiuran.

"Why can't I?" Ji Xiuran held an apron in his hand and turned to her.

"But you're Ji Xiuran. If you really cook for me, I'm afraid I couldn't withstand it." Worriless Nie chuckled.

"There's a condition, of course." Ji Xiuran's smile—warm as the spring breeze—intoxicated and mesmerized the girl.

"What condition?" she asked.

"Come here," Ji Xiuran said.

Worriless Nie automatically walked over.

"Help me tie it on." Ji Xiuran handed the apron to Worriless Nie.

"But I won't help you get dressed." Worriless Nie gave him a crooked grin. "If you want me to help you strip though, I can consider that."

"Okay." Ji Xiuran wore an inscrutable smile. To the girl, this smile was devoid of all warmth, replaced by wicked seductiveness instead.

The girl originally held an advantageous and offensive position, but when she saw him walking closer to her step by step, she panicked instantly, and her eyes darted everywhere.

When the man approached her, he grasped her hands.

Worriless Nie was fretting over what to do, but Ji Xiuran simply handed the apron to her. "Be good. Help me tie it on."

"Huh ... Oh ... "

A blush had subconsciously overtaken Worriless Nie's face. After the competition just now, she was utterly defeated and could only obediently help him tie on the apron.

...

After much hard work, Ji Xiuran handed a plate of sweet and sour spare ribs to Worriless Nie along with a bowl of rice.

"So delicious..."

"Eat some vegetables too."

Seeing the trace of warmth in his eyes, the girl felt like she possessed the whole world.

Chapter 2460

As the man and the girl made their way from the kitchen back to the courtyard near the rear hill, the sun shone brilliantly and a breeze brushed over them, adding to the content atmosphere.

Ji Xiuran sat down in the courtyard and picked up a classic text again, slowly reading it. On the other hand, Worriless Nie was sitting next to Ji Xiuran, occasionally looking at him.

"Is the book that interesting?" Worriless Nie asked.

"It can't match up to one ten-thousandth of you," Ji Xiuran casually responded.

Before the girl could say anything else, Ji Xiuran set the book down. "The proceedings of the Fearless Alliance don't seem to be going smoothly."

The girl was silent.

Indeed, the Fearless Alliance was facing a great hurdle and had crossed some long-established major factions, so they were literally surviving in the cracks.

"It's nothing. Things are going rather smoothly, actually." The girl forced a smile.

"Mm, as long as things are going well." Ji Xiuran nodded gently.

...

After Worriless Nie left:

"Skeleton," Ji Xiuran called.

A thin man appeared.

Ji Xiuran didn't take his eyes off of his book and kept reading as he ordered, "Eliminate every entity that threatens the Fearless Alliance. Withhold all mercy."

"Yes." Skeleton took his leave a second later.

"Young Master..."

Ji Yue looked at Ji Xiuran. "Our situation right now isn't optimistic either. The Tong family and the remnants of the Zhou family teamed up with the previous leader of the underground empire. We should avoid trouble."

However, Ji Xiuran didn't look up and replied detachedly, "Don't stick your nose where it doesn't belong."

"Young Master... Sigh, alright." Ji Yue was exasperated.

Had his young master gone mad? This next period of time was most vital for the young master. Whether he could rule the entire underground empire or not would depend on this. Furthermore, the Tong and Zhou families were attentively watching Ji Xiuran, wanting to eliminate Ji Xiuran first so the others would collapse. Yet, he was dispatching Skeleton and his group to help that ridiculous Fearless Alliance.

. . .

Late at night, at the headquarters of a major faction:

Several higher-ups were facing off against a great enemy. These people actually managed to covertly infiltrate their headquarters and successfully avoided all detection, catching them completely off guard. Just how did they do it?!

Skeleton grimly stood next to a man.

The man wore an overcoat and leather gloves.

"I heard you guys schemed and injured Bai Feng of the Fearless Alliance." The man, Ji Xiuran, had a faint smile on his lips but it sent onlookers shivering.

Skeleton looked at his master. This smile was a true sign that this man was genuinely angry—a rare occasion.

"Bai Feng?"

A higher-up snorted. "I was wondering who you were! So you're from the Fearless Alliance! What did you think you could do by sneaking inside our headquarters? I'm telling you—we've set up an elaborate trap around this place! All of you will die!"

"We've disabled your elaborate trap already. How else do you think we entered?" Ji Yue interjected coldly.

"What?!"

The expressions of several managers changed at once. What kind of joke were they playing?

"What should we do with them, Emperor Ji?" Skeleton asked.

"Emperor Ji?!"

Everyone was stunned when they discovered the identity of this man. This man was... E-emperor Ji?!

"Emperor Ji... Could it be you're... Ji Xiuran... of the Ji family?!"

A manager shuddered. Impossible! How could Ji Xiuran have any connection to the Fearless Alliance and that Bai Feng?! That was absolutely impossible!

Who was Ji Xiuran? Although he rarely made appearances in the Independent State and very few people had ever seen Ji Xiuran's true appearance, his ferocious name... had reverberated through the Independent State since he was young!

"From now on, you'll be struck off from the Independent State," Ji Xiuran aloofly said.

...

Soon, a raging flame started to take over the headquarters, swallowing it whole.

He wouldn't forgive any entity that harmed her. He would only destroy and erase their existence.

Perhaps feeling a bit chilly, the man wrapped his overcoat around him more tightly. Then he led his group away without looking back.