

Secret Love 2461

Chapter 2461 Side Story: Ji Xiuran 6

The Independent State:

It was winter and heavy snow fluttered from the sky like goose feathers throughout the entire day.

In the rear courtyard of the headquarters of Emperor Ji's faction:

Ji Xiuran was wearing a thick overcoat while his head of long hair was casually draped behind him.

Currently, the man was kneeling down and meticulously caring for the fruits and vegetables he personally planted.

"Brother Xiuran, are you planning to retire and return to civilian life?"

Worriless Nie asked from her seat in the courtyard as she watched Ji Xiuran, who had quite a few splatters of rain and snow on his body.

She didn't understand why this man planted these fruits and vegetables.

"Retire and return to civilian life...?" Ji Xiuran murmured softly, startled.

"Mhm, retire and return to civilian life," Worriless Nie said jokingly.

"What? Is this the life you want?" Ji Xiuran turned to Worriless Nie.

"The life I want..." Worriless Nie pondered for a moment with her chin propped on her hand. "A few fields, three meals of salted vegetables, working from sunrise to sunset... Ordinary and peaceful."

Ji Xiuran smiled. "Are you willing to leave it all behind?"

"Why wouldn't I? You though—are you willing to leave it all behind?" Worriless Nie asked Ji Xiuran.

Ji Xiuran was startled. "Your future includes me too?"

"Of course!" Worriless Nie dashed forward and looped her arm around his arm. "I can be without everyone... I just can't go without you in my life."

"But I'm not willing." Ji Xiuran shook his head.

The anticipation in Worriless Nie's eyes instantly turned into an indescribable emotion.

"I'm not willing to make you eat only pickled vegetables for all three meals, so how about we add some sweet and sour spare ribs?" Ji Xiuran chuckled lightly.

"..." F*ck, what's going on with this man?!

"Brother Xiuran, are you willing to leave this life and abandon everything...?" Worriless Nie was incredulous.

In the Independent State, he was akin to an emperor who lorded over the world and possessed almost supreme power.

Ji Xiuran shook his head and slowly stood up. He wrapped the girl's jacket around her more tightly as he said, "I wouldn't unless I was trading this life for you."

"Really?" Worriless Nie stood in her spot, watching his movements before meeting his enthralling, gentle eyes. She felt that her heart had been melted by his blazing warmth already.

"What do you think?" The man tapped the tip of her nose with his finger.

"Go in first; it's cold out here." Ji Xiuran turned around and picked some of the vegetables and fruits he planted. "I grew these myself since I don't trust other people's produce. Come over to eat often. These are all very healthy."

"You... planted all of this for me?" Worriless Nie was astonished.

The corners of his lips turned up, happiness also surfacing in his eyes. After he finished picking the produce, he walked forward and grasped her hand before leading her toward the kitchen.

Ji Xiuran's culinary skills had been honed more and more exquisitely. His dishes looked and smelled amazing and tasted incredible, especially his sweet and sour spare ribs. Worriless Nie wanted nothing more than to inhale even the plate.

However, the girl didn't like eating vegetables and only consumed meat, aside from Ji Xiuran's vegetables.

That evening, anyone who looked down from the hilltop at Emperor Ji's headquarters would have a panoramic view of the resplendence below.

The man sat at the mountain top, the girl sitting next to him.

"You've worked hard for all of this for a very long time," the girl commented softly.

"That's right. I haven't stopped since I was a youth." Ji Xiuran nodded.

"My Fearless Alliance is also very fearsome right now... it's strange though—the factions that kept oppressing us before have all disappeared..." Worriless Nie said.

"That's good." Ji Xiuran smiled.

The girl turned to him. "Eh... It's not your doing, right?"

"It isn't." The man shook his head.

"Suspicious!" Worriless Nie pursed her lips.

Chapter 2462 Side Story: Ji Xiuran 7

"If you like it, all of this can be yours," Ji Xiuran said with a chuckle as he looked at the world below him.

"It can be mine?" The girl also surveyed the land underneath them. This was akin to an empire.

"But you're Emperor Ji. Are you willing to yield everything to me?" Worriless Nie joked.

"If you want to become Emperor Nie," Ji Xiuran replied.

“Emperor Nie?” Worriless Nie hastily shook her head. “Forget it, that sounds terrible... I would rather keep being Bai Feng.”

Before the girl could say anything else, the man tugged her into his arms.

Caught off guard, the girl fell against his chest.

When Worriless Nie recovered, a blush instantly covered her face.

She’d never experienced this reddening and heart-racing feeling. Although there were many good-looking men in the world, Ji Xiuran’s uniqueness was irreplaceable.

“Don’t work too hard,” Ji Xiuran softly said.

“You’re the one working hard...” Worriless Nie retorted. “Oh right—lately, the Tong family, the Zhou family, and that Li Chun you defeated have released word that they want your life... You know about that, right?”

“I don’t.” Ji Xiuran shook his head.

“Huh? You don’t know?” Worriless Nie was stunned. “How could you not know? Isn’t that too dangerous?!”

“I don’t care too much about things said by strays.” Ji Xiuran smiled.

“You must protect yourself well, alright?” The girl was filled with worry.

“Mm,” Ji Xiuran agreed.

“Your complexion doesn’t look too good.” The girl carefully examined his face.

“Maybe it’s because of the cold. Let’s go back inside.” Ji Xiuran stood up and naturally took her hand into his before leaving this place.

...

A few days later, inside the study of Emperor Ji’s headquarters:

“Emperor Ji...” Skeleton quickly strode inside.

“Speak,” Ji Xiuran said.

“It’s regarding Miss Worriless.” Skeleton was hesitant.

The man instantly furrowed his brows. “What happened?”

“Miss Worriless... f-fell to the Zhou family, the Tong family, and Li Chun’s ploy... and was captured,” Skeleton reported truthfully.

The always-calm man shot up instantly. Never-seen-before iciness and violent rage erupted from his eyes and veins bulged on his forehead.

He set his hand on his desk as if he was trying to calm himself down.

However, a loud “boom” rang out and wooden pieces scattered everywhere. The desk had been crushed.

“Emperor Ji...”

Skeleton was shocked. This was the first time in his life that he had ever seen his master on the brink of losing all rationality. When had the always-scheming and confident Emperor Ji look the way he did today?!

“Who... leaked it out?” The man was expressionless.

However, Skeleton could sense that the man was restraining the wild beast that was about to shatter its cage and leap outside of him.

“Emperor Ji! No one knows about your relationship with the President of the Fearless Alliance, Bai Feng... I think that someone from our side probably saw Miss Worryless visiting our headquarters... and accidentally divulged it...” Skeleton hastily explained.

“Find them and kill without mercy!” the man commanded.

“Yes...”

“How’s the situation at the Fearless Alliance?” Ji Xiuran asked.

“The Fearless Alliance has no idea Miss Worryless was captured. The Zhou family, the Tong family, and Li Chun paid a huge price this time, but even so, they suffered extensive damage and a dozen or so higher-ups were killed. Miss Worryless fought to the verge of exhaustion, but unfortunately, her opponents were too contemptible and too great in numbers,” Skeleton replied.

The man was frighteningly quiet, but Skeleton could sense the other man’s insuppressible violent undercurrents.

Chapter 2463 Side Story: Ji Xiuran 8

“Give it to me.” Ji Xiuran extended his hand toward Skeleton.

“Give what to you, Emperor Ji?” Shock flitted through Skeleton’s face, but he quickly concealed it.

“The letter that Li Chun, the Zhou family, and the Tong family left for me,” the man replied.

“Um...” Skeleton frowned deeply. How did Emperor Ji know...

“They have no grievances or grudges against Worryless. Li Chun and his group captured Worryless for no reason other than to force me to show up. Since they did it so covertly, they would’ve naturally left clues and a letter for me. Otherwise, what would be the point of abducting Worryless?” the man added.

“Emperor Ji... But...” Skeleton was hesitant.

“Don’t make me say it a second time.” The man was already on the brink of losing his rationality.

In the end, Skeleton sighed and handed the letter to Ji Xiuran.

After reading the letter, Ji Xiuran ordered, “No one is allowed to act rashly. I’ll keep the appointment.”

“WHAT?!”

Skeleton was aghast. What? He'll keep the appointment? That's an absolutely suicidal appointment!

“Emperor Ji, you mustn't! They went through Herculean efforts to abduct Miss Worriless because they wanted to make you give in! If you really meet with them, you'll die without a doubt!” Skeleton hastily tried to stop him.

“As long as she's fine... my life is unimportant...” the man murmured.

This was the only mistake in his life, but one sole mistake could become an unredeemable blunder!

“No, Emperor Ji, if you go, both you and Miss Worriless will probably... If you don't go, Miss Worriless's life temporarily won't be at risk. After all, you're their only target!” Skeleton said.

“Don't make me repeat myself,” the man said coldly.

“Emperor Ji...”

“Scram!”

Skeleton could only clench his teeth and retreat.

...

In a secret room:

The girl was covered in blood and had her arms and legs bound, but her energy was still decent and she was icily and darkly staring at everyone in the room.

“I wonder if Ji Xiuran truly cares about your life or not,” a tall man said coldly as he looked at Worriless Nie.

“Heh, I heard Bai Feng and Ji Xiuran had a good relationship. Even if Ji Xiuran doesn't care about her life, we can strengthen our cause by using this opportunity to subsume the Fearless Alliance,” Patriarch Tong interjected.

“Back then, Ji Xiuran plotted and killed my son. This time, I'll definitely obliterate him!”

“With just you guys...?” Worriless Nie stared at Li Chun, Patriarch Zhou, and their henchmen and snorted. “You overestimate yourselves!”

“Indeed, if we didn't have you in our possession, perhaps we really would be overestimating ourselves. But with you here, everything is different.” Li Chun glanced at Worriless Nie.

“Me?” Worriless Nie shook her head. “It appears I'll really have to disappoint you. Ji Xiuran and I only have a business relationship—the Fearless Alliance has only just recently collaborated with Emperor Ji. It appears you've rashly acted without making thorough investigations.”

A shock swept over the occupants of the room.

Ji Xiuran... I prohibit you from coming... You mustn't come... Worriless Nie might've looked composed and placid on the surface but anxiety had drowned her insides.

“Patriarch!”

A middle-aged man suddenly burst in. “Ji Xiuran is here!”

“Really?!” Patriarch Tong’s eyes lit up.

“I saw it myself! And he’s all by himself!” the middle-aged man replied.

“Good! Wonderful!” Patriarch Zhou was steaming with excitement. “Son... I can finally avenge you!”

Worriless Nie froze. He... still came. Is he an idiot?! Doesn’t he know this is a fatal plot with no possibility of survival?! Why would he do this?!

Soon, a round of knocking was heard.

The middle-aged man opened the door.

In his overcoat, the man apathetically stood in front of the door. “Is this a good time?”

“Hahaha, welcome, Emperor Ji! Pardon me for not going out to meet you! You’re welcome, you’re too welcome! We were all waiting for you!” Patriarch Tong chuckled.

Chapter 2464 Side Story: Ji Xiuran 9

The man pulled his jacket around himself more tightly before strolling into the room without any hesitation.

Bam!

The door was forcefully slammed shut following Ji Xiuran’s entrance.

“Ji Xiuran, why did you come here? Are you stupid?!” A mist enveloped the girl’s eyes when she saw Ji Xiuran. He will die!

However, the man didn’t respond and swept his eyes over everyone else in the room. “May I ask what everyone intended by employing this type of method to invite me here?”

“It’s nothing major. I just missed you dearly after not seeing you for a long time, Emperor Ji. We mainly wanted to see you and chat,” Li Chun replied.

“Hmph!” Patriarch Zhou snorted. “Ji Xiuran, back then, you killed my son and framed the Tong family for it, making both of our families suffer immensely... You didn’t expect to see this day, right!!!”

Ji Xiuran’s lips turned up and he nonchalantly said, “You were merely too stupid.”

“Haha, what kind of situation are we in? Your mouth is still so tough... Fine, since you’re willing to come and meet your death for this woman, I’ll respect you as a real man. You killed my son back then, so I will make this woman die in front of you today!” Patriarch Zhou turned to the middle-aged man standing to the side and ordered, “Pierce her eyes first! That will be my greeting gift for Emperor Ji!”

The middle-aged man nodded and instantly directed his dagger toward Worriless Nie.

Worriless Nie could hear the frightening sound of the dagger breaking the wind.

Reflexively, she closed her eyes.

Pfff!

It was the sound of a blade piercing flesh.

The girl felt several droplets of fiery warmth landing on her face.

Worriless Nie's eyes shot open. The scene that greeted her made her pupils contract.

The man shielded her behind him, his long hair flying in the air. However, his ink-colored hair was tainted with stains of blood.

The dagger had pierced through the man's palm. /Drip, drip./ Droplets of blood followed Ji Xiuran's fingers and fell onto the floor.

"Brother Xiuran!!!"

Worriless Nie couldn't hold back her tears.

The man turned back, his lips curling up into a smile directed at the girl. It was still that familiar smile with immense warmth overflowing from his eyes, as though he was still that sunny boy-next-door from their youth.

"Hahaha, you truly are Emperor Ji! If we didn't belong to different camps, I would really want to befriend you, Emperor Ji... After you die, I'll bury you honorably! You're a true man!" Li Chun praised Ji Xiuran.

This noble man actually used his own hand to block a fatal blow for the girl.

Ji Xiuran sent the middle-aged man flying back with his palm before walking toward Worriless Nie without looking back. He surveyed the girl's wounds and softly asked, "It hurts a lot, right?"

"It doesn't... It doesn't hurt! Hurry and leave! Ji Xiuran, leave!" she screamed at the man with every bit of energy inside of her.

However, a second later, the man embraced her. "Sorry... It's my fault..."

"No... It really isn't..." Tears soaked the man's overcoat and the girl vehemently shook her head in his arms.

"Worriless... Don't be afraid. Regardless of where you are or what you go through... I'll stay with you," the man reassured her softly.

"I'm not afraid. As long as you're here, I'm not afraid... Brother Xiuran, I'm not afraid, but if the outcome is death, I don't want you to be here..." The girl had never been as relaxed as she was now in the man's embrace. That resilient and strong President of the Fearless Alliance, Bai Feng, was now that small girl from when she was with Ji Xiuran years ago.

She would drool whenever she saw something yummy, she would make the boy carry her when she was tired, she would blush... and she would act like a child.

"Even if you die, I'll be by your side," the man said.

Chapter 2465

Tears welled in the girl's eyes as she stared at the man. "I don't want you to die..."

"Worriless, I won't let you die." The man gave her a comforting smile.

Before Worriless Nie could respond, Ji Xiuran asked, "Tell me, who injured you?"

"That's not important..." The girl shook her head with a smile.

"It's important to me," Ji Xiuran expressionlessly replied.

The girl's gaze landed on the middle-aged man holding a backsword earlier.

"Is that so?"

Ji Xiuran slowly stood up, his gaze landing on the middle-aged man.

"Hahaha, Ji Xiuran, haven't you grasped the situation and circumstances yet?!" The middle-aged man didn't have a trace of fear on his face as he looked at Ji Xiuran.

Ji Xiuran disappeared from his spot and reappeared next to the middle-aged man.

Swish!

Without wasting any words, Ji Xiuran uncoiled his right arm and blood sprayed into the air a second later.

The smile on the middle-aged man's face froze, swiftly replaced by fear.

The middle-aged man clutched his neck with his hands, but the blood couldn't be stopped.

His jugular was slashed by Ji Xiuran, but the middle-aged man had no idea how Ji Xiuran did it up until his death.

Ji Xiuran aloofly said, "My situation has nothing to do with how you harmed her."

"Hahaha, you're Emperor Ji indeed. They all say Emperor Ji is powerful, and I originally thought they were just rumors. It's my first time seeing Emperor Ji fight. My horizons have been widened." Li Chun clapped with a laugh.

Ji Xiuran didn't respond and turned around to walk toward the girl. He used his dagger to untie her arms and legs.

"Can you walk?" Ji Xiuran inquired quietly.

Worriless Nie shook her head. "No... I can't walk... right now..."

"Come." Ji Xiuran bent down.

"No, Brother Xiuran, I'm begging you... Leave! If you don't take me, I believe... you can leave!" Worriless Nie was unwilling.

Ji Xiuran shook his head and carried the girl on his back.

“Ji Xiuran, this is my first time seeing you lower your head and bowing... Is a woman worth it...? Even if it costs you your life?” Li Chun’s eyes glinted coldly.

The man didn’t answer and slowly walked forward with the girl on his back, step by step.

“Kill him,” Li Chun ordered.

Countless blades shone and gleamed ceaselessly.

The man kicked and sent the people closest to him flying back like a dragon erupting from the sea.

“Idiots! Ji Xiuran’s weakness is Bai Feng!” Li Chun taunted.

Everyone changed their target and started attacking Worriless Nie.

Pfff!

It wasn’t long before the man was covered in blood and his overcoat was dyed red.

The man’s body was trembling slightly, but his face remained devoid of any expression.

“Brother Xiuran... Don’t torment me like this anymore... Don’t block blows for me anymore... I’m begging you...” Behind the man, the girl’s voice was broken with sobs.

The man turned his head, a gentle smile hanging on his face. “It doesn’t hurt.”

“You aren’t hurting... but I’m hurting!” The girl was hysterical.

“Worriless... I will get you out of here,” the man promised after a moment of silence.

“Ji Xiuran, I would like to see how you will be able to walk out of here alive!” Li Chun leaped up, his dagger ferociously directed toward Worriless Nie.

Ji Xiuran instantly spun around.

The dagger pierced into Ji Xiuran’s chest.

“Li Chun, do you think... you’ve won?” the man asked apathetically.

Chapter 2466 Side Story: Ji Xiuran 11

“Is that not so?” Li Chun snorted. “Your blood is boiling.”

“Attack,” Ji Xiuran ordered expressionlessly.

Li Chun was startled.

Before Li Chun could react, a chilly glint flashed in the eyes of the experts behind Li Chun and their daggers ruthlessly pierced Li Chun’s back at once.

“Y-you!”

Li Chun turned around in shock and stared at his two confidants.

“Apologies. We’ve been Emperor Ji’s men since long ago!” one of the confidants replied coldly.

Swish!

The other man was unwilling to waste his words and stabbed his dagger into Li Chun's neck.

Upon seeing this, Patriarch Zhou and Patriarch Tong exploded with rage.

This g*dd*mn Ji Xiuran!

Li Chun was extremely strong and was considered among the A+ tier fighting forces in the Independent State. Plus, they had the advantage in numbers, so even if Li Chun's confidants were Ji Xiuran's men, Ji Xiuran didn't dare to act rashly. He waited until Li Chun was relaxed enough before striking the fatal blow!

Ji Xiuran... He had been waiting this whole time! He actually gambled with his own life!

This b*stard had planned everything since the first step he took inside of this place.

Unfortunately, Li Chun thought he'd completely defeated Ji Xiuran but was merely floundering inside Ji Xiuran's trap this entire time. Even if this was a dead-end fatal plot, Ji Xiuran gambled with his life... and he won!

Li Chun was dead. The remaining people were nothing!

"Emperor Ji!"

As the two confidants looked at Ji Xiuran's swaying figure, their expressions revealed their trepidation.

"Ignore me." Ji Xiuran glanced at Patriarch Zhou and Patriarch Tong. "Make them taste all of the pain in this world."

After saying that, the man carried the girl and left the place without looking back.

Snow fluttered around them, and every single one of the man's steps appeared especially strained.

"Brother Xiuran, put me down!" The girl struggled.

Finally, the girl struggled free and the man fell on a pile of snow.

Gratification brimmed from the man's stunning face. He reached out and patted her long hair. "Are you scared?"

"I am... I'm scared you'll die. Ji Xiuran, you idiot!" The girl clutched Ji Xiuran in her arms. "If you die... what's the point in me living... You shouldn't have come!"

The man turned silent and didn't respond.

But if... if you died, what's the point in me living?

...

Half a month later:

"Ji Xiuran, you're rather fearsome!" Haitang mocked as she watched the man who could leave the bed and walk already.

“What is it?” Ji Xiuran asked.

“You were both nearly killed,” Haitang said.

“It’s fine to just look at the outcome,” Ji Xiuran replied.

“Ji Xiuran, I’m asking you... Just what... what does Worryless mean to you?” Haitang asked a long while later, meeting Ji Xiuran’s eyes.

Ji Xiuran smiled faintly but didn’t answer.

He didn’t need to share the answer with anyone.

“Sis Haitang!”

At that moment, Worryless Nie walked inside with a pile of lunch boxes.

“Your true love is here. I’m leaving.” Haitang smiled and turned to leave.

“You’re here.” Ji Xiuran looked at Worryless Nie.

“Hurry and eat. I made delicious food for you!” Worryless Nie exclaimed cheerfully.

Ji Xiuran placidly sat back down on the bed and watched the girl open all the lunch boxes for him.

“This is soup brewed with an old hen to help you recuperate your blood... Here are some stir-fry dishes too...” Worryless Nie said.

She then picked up a spoon and ordered him: “Open your mouth.”

Ji Xiuran: “...”

“Does it taste good?” The girl was eager.

“Mm... I lost my sense of taste looking at you and I can’t taste the deliciousness of food anymore,” Ji Xiuran said with a smile.

Chapter 2467 Side Story: Ji Xiuran End

Time flew by.

She journeyed across the world with her grandfather while he accomplished his dreams and ceaselessly expanded the Ji family’s territory.

The girl was still young and was still naive and clueless about romance, but he wasn’t worried. Life was a long journey, and he still had a lot of time with her. He was also confident that his Little Worryless wouldn’t easily take a liking to other men.

However...

He made calculations for everything but forgot to include heaven’s will.

“Emperor Ji, your body is probably...”

The elderly man next to Haitang was staring at the man with deeply locked brows.

After learning about his body's condition, the man didn't say anything. It felt like all of this had been predetermined in the unseen world.

"Sigh, extreme intelligence comes at a cost..." the elderly man lamented with a soft sigh and a regretful shake of his head sometime later.

"Mm, I understand." The man was also quiet for a long time before turning to leave with a bitter smile.

A swordsman had a sword, a scholar had a pen, but from now on, Ji Xiuran wouldn't have Worryless Nie anymore.

It appeared the heavens didn't permit him to be in her future.

"Ji Xiuran!"

Haitang hastily chased after the leaving man. "You must recover well..."

The man paused and his gaze landed on Haitang. "But I still have many things to do."

"Many things? Could they be more important than your life?!" Haitang pressed worriedly.

"Then you think lying in bed will stop him from taking my life?" Ji Xiuran pointed at the sky.

"I'll tell Worryless..." Haitang pulled out her phone.

Ji Xiuran shook his head. "No need."

"Ji Xiuran, what do you mean? Doesn't Worryless have a right to know about such a big thing?" Haitang frowned deeply.

"It'd just add to her worries," Ji Xiuran replied softly.

"Just what are you saying? Do you plan to keep it a secret from Worryless then push Worryless away?!" Haitang asked.

Ji Xiuran remained silent.

"Heh, Ji Xiuran... You're so heroic. Just who do you think you are? Are you really treating yourself like the male lead in a tragic romance? You'd shoulder all the big problems yourself and completely disappear from this world all by yourself?!" Haitang demanded furiously.

"Every person has the power to make their own choices. It has nothing to do with heroism." After saying that, the man turned to leave without looking back.

...

On the island, inside the dilapidated storehouse, the man slowly opened his eyes, his complexion pale. He seemed to have had a dream. He dreamed about a first meeting, he dreamed about mutual companionship, he dreamed about loneliness and despair.

Soon, the man fixed his white shirt with difficulty and faced the camera with a warm smile.

"I wish you a happy new marriage."

As the man spoke, a ripple of emotion surfaced in his eyes. He lowered his head, not wanting the camera to capture any of his emotions.

It was a long time before the man faced the camera again.

“Farewell.”

...

Next to the ocean, the man repositioned himself into a more comfortable position. He remembered that he and that girl had also sat next to the ocean like this many years ago and talked about their future as they ate a boxed lunch.

Feeling the breeze from the ocean, the scene of their first meeting started playing again in his mind.

At the Ji Estate:

The sun was blazing high in the sky.

The girl was walking while carrying a giant pot, already soaked in sweat.

She used a tree branch to prop the giant metal pot up and threw a lot of the food she stole from the Ji family’s kitchen under the pot as bait.

A moment later, having set up the bait, the girl hid behind a giant tree.

She held the rope tied to the tree branch in her hand. She originally wanted to use this giant pot to capture the birds living in the Ji Estate’s rear mountain, but not a single bird took the bait after waiting for a long time.

The girl was starting to drift to sleep when a boy holding a book appeared and stopped in front of the pot. He was startled and looked around him but didn’t see a single person. All he saw was the pile of food sitting under the pot.

What is this doing here...?

The boy knelt down and curiously trudged forward with his head sticking out curiously, looking underneath the pot.

The drowsy girl felt movement from the rope in her hand and reflexively pulled it to the left.

A loud “bang” rang out and the pot dropped down. Before the boy could react, he was stuck inside the pot.

The girl excitedly sprinted out from behind the tree and stopped in front of the pot. She shouted with exhilaration, “Wow! Hahaha, I’ve caught it, I’ve caught it!”

“Who’s there?”

When the girl heard a voice coming from inside the pot, she jolted in fright. “Wow, the bird has honed a spirit! Are you a goblin? You can speak?!”

“Who are you?”

“Hm? Me? My name is Worriless Nie, what about you?”

“...”

Worriless Nie...

Worriless...

At that time, he never would've guessed that he would be trapped by such a clumsy trap.

And this trap lasted his entire life.

Chapter 2468 Side Story; Nameless Nie 1

“Learning a skill?” The boy put down the abacus he was holding and looked at his parents with a tilt of his head before promptly shaking his head. “What’s there to learn? I won’t go.”

The young master of the Nie family carried some fame to his name, and it wasn’t simply because of the Nie family.

Nameless Nie was extremely talented in martial arts but favored his abacus and frequently conducted trades with other people.

“Dad, Mom, how much money does the Nie family have? After you die, won’t I have to take over the management of the Nie family’s finances? What’s the use of learning martial arts? Just look at the Shen family...” Nameless Nie expressed his objections to his parents’ decision to send him to learn martial arts.

Father Nie exploded with wrath. “You scoundrel! Send! Immediately send him away!”

...

Within three days, Nameless Nie was sent out of the Independent State.

At a village in a small country neighboring the Independent State:

Nameless Nie looked at the mansion sitting in the center of the village then looked at the owner of this mansion. He couldn’t understand why his parents would send him to this lousy place in the middle of nowhere.

Also, what was the deal with this woman who liked to smoke cigarettes next to him? His parents wanted him to learn martial arts from her?

Nameless Nie couldn’t tell what was unusual about this woman? She didn’t seem to be that big of a deal. If he had to name a strength of hers, there was something.

Whether it was this woman’s appearance or her figure, they were both top-notch. However, she dressed very casually. She wore a pair of shabby jeans and a loose top, appearing rather unruly and free. If she put some effort into her looks, she would probably be a rare beauty.

“Nameless, my ancestors had some connections to your ancestors. Your parents sent you to me to learn. I hope you can listen well in the future, okay?” the woman asked Nameless Nie with a light chuckle.

Nameless Nie blinked and blinked. “D*mn hag. Even my parents can’t manage me, so what right do you have to control me? Blah!”

Nameless Nie snorted and turned to leave.

However, he didn’t take more than a few steps before the woman grabbed him by his collar and picked him up.

“Punk, you’re rather uncouth! How do your parents discipline you?”

The woman snorted.

“I’m warning you—release me immediately! A good man doesn’t fight a woman, and this young master has never beaten a woman, but I don’t mind breaking this rule... I’m telling you—I’m very strong...”

Nameless Nie started brandishing his claws in mid-air.

The woman was amused by Nameless Nie’s appearance and gently put him back on the ground. She stuck her hands into her jeans pockets, intrigued. “Are you very strong? I really couldn’t tell. If you can defeat me, I will send you back to the Independent State. How about that?”

“Alright, you were the one who said it! Don’t blame your Grandfather Nameless for ruining a flower and not knowing how to be tender to a woman!” Nameless Nie harrumphed.

“Ruining a flower... Being tender to a woman... Who did you learn these words from, little imp?” the woman asked curiously.

She really couldn’t figure out how a seven-or-eight-year-old child could say something like this.

“I learned without a teacher! Please call me a genius!” Nameless Nie replied.

“Don’t tell me you learned it from your father,” the woman said, humored.

Nameless Nie was startled. “How did you know?”

Before the woman could say anything else, Nameless Nie suddenly looked behind the woman in astonishment. “Mom, why did you come here?”

The woman reflexively looked behind her.

Chapter 2469 Side Story; Nameless Nie 2

Nameless Nie guffawed and swung his fist, charging toward the woman. “The world is dangerous and human intentions are unpredictable! Let me teach you a lesson!”

However, a “plop” resounded and Nameless Nie tripped and crashed next to her feet.

The woman turned around and looked at Nameless Nie, baffled. “What did you say?”

Nameless Nie replied, “Oh... I missed my mom too much, so I was probably having hallucinations...”

“Who did you say you were teaching a lesson to?” The woman stared at Nameless Nie.

“Didn’t I come here to learn martial arts? Teach me a lesson then,” Nameless Nie said.

The woman instantly picked up Nameless Nie and strode toward the mansion up ahead.

...

"To be my student, you have to abide by three rules," the woman said to Nameless Nie in the living room.

"Which three rules?" Nameless Nie asked curiously.

"First, from today onward, you're responsible for the cleaning the house as well as buying groceries and cooking."

"Second, from now on, you'll do whatever I say without any objections."

"Third, you're now a member of our family and the only man in the house, so you must work and train harder so that you can at least protect us in the future."

Nameless Nie sat on the sofa with one leg crossed over his knee and snorted when the woman finished speaking. "What do you mean I'm the only man? Is your husband dead? Are you a widow? Don't even think about making me buy groceries, cook, and clean! I want to learn the monkey fists, so how about you give me a monkey show?"

Before the woman could respond, an apathetic girl walked downstairs from the second floor with a white dress.

"Mom... so noisy..." the girl softly said to the woman. Her gaze toward Nameless Nie was aloof but was mixed with a trace of curiosity.

"Who are you?" Nameless Nie asked the girl.

"You're in my house. Why are you asking who I am?" the girl retorted calmly.

"Nameless Nie, she's my daughter. In terms of family hierarchy, you should call her aunt," the woman said.

"Aunt?" Nameless Nie stared at the girl. "Why should I call her aunt? Why isn't she calling me Grandfather instead? If she calls me Grandfather, I'll call her Aunt. If we address each other like this, then I can accept that."

Before the woman could respond, a realization dawned on Nameless Nie. "She's your daughter... Which means you really have a husband, but you just said I was the only man in the house. Your husband really is dead, and you're a widow!"

"Imp, don't take a mile when I've given you an inch. I never hit children," the woman responded coldly.

"Hag, don't bare your fangs at me! I never hit women!" Nameless Nie wasn't to be outdone.

"Ling Miao, help Mommy teach this imp a hard lesson," the woman said to the girl.

The girl shook her head though. "It'd dirty my hands."

"It appears I have no choice but to personally teach you a lesson, imp." The woman snorted.

“Come! Do you think I’d be scared of you, a widow?” Nameless Nie pursed his lips.

...

About half an hour passed.

Nameless Nie, who was beaten black and blue, looked at the woman with a grin on his face. “Auntie Ling, Great Aunt, give me some money. I’ll go buy some groceries...”

“Are you giving in?” Auntie Ling asked Nameless Nie.

“How could I give in... It’s just that I’m the only man in the house, so I have to yield to you and Aunt Ling Miao. This is just a basic form of respect...”

Nameless Nie, who was basically beaten to submission, could only start shouldering all the chores in this house. He did all the cleaning and cooking every day. Thankfully, Auntie Ling treated him decently and left the laundry to Ling Miao.

Chapter 2470 Side Story; Nameless Nie 3

“Ling Miao, why’s your surname Ling?”

Nameless Nie curiously stared at the girl.

“Why is your surname Nie?” the girl retorted.

“My dad’s surname is Nie,” Nameless Nie replied.

“But isn’t your father’s surname Ling?” Ling Miao glanced at him.

“Eh, my dad’s situation is a bit special... You can take it as I took my mom’s surname.” Nameless Nie’s expression was a bit awkward.

“I also took my mom’s surname. Is there a problem?” Ling Miao said detachedly.

“What I meant was... where did your dad go?” Nameless Nie was blunt.

Ling Miao pondered over it for a moment and didn’t evade the question. “My dad abandoned my mom and me and ran off with another woman.”

“Huh?”

Nameless Nie was astonished. “I thought your dad died, your mom was a widow, and you were an orphan...”

Ling Miao: “...”

“However, Great Aunt Ling is so pretty! Why would your dad run off with another woman? Could it be that woman is prettier than Great Aunt Ling?” Nameless Nie inquired nosily.

“If you don’t know how to talk, you’re best off staying quiet.” Ling Miao furrowed her brows.

“Fine fine fine, I won’t talk... Oh right, when I came, I saw a small ferris wheel in town. Let’s go out and play a bit,” Nameless Nie suggested with a grin.

Ling Miao shook her head. “My mom doesn’t allow me to go out and play.”

“Great Aunt Ling doesn’t allow you to go out and play?” Nameless Nie was shocked. “Isn’t that smothering our true nature? That’s unforgivably wicked!”

“And I’m not that interested,” Ling Miao continued.

Nameless Nie pursed his lips. “How could you not be interested... I’m telling you—it’s because you haven’t tried. Come, I’ll take you.”

Nameless Nie grasped Ling Miao’s hand and tried to move.

However, two seconds later, a “plop” was heard. Nameless Nie suddenly lost balance and was thrown to the ground by Ling Miao.

“AHHH!” Nameless Nie fell on the ground with a wail.

“Are you okay...”

A shadow of worry flickered through Ling Miao’s eyes when she heard how awful Nameless Nie was howling. She didn’t use any force.

“How could I be okay? I’m going to tell Great Aunt Ling that you actually hit me!” Nameless Nie was full of grievances.

“Where does it hurt?” Ling Miao gently knelt down, her bright eyes examining Nameless Nie.

“My head! There’s a giant bump! Feel it!” Nameless Nie snorted from his spot on the ground.

Ling Miao softly touched Nameless Nie’s head and said, “It’ll be fine... It’ll go away soon.”

“What do you mean fine? I’m telling you—I was going easy on you earlier and suppressing my instincts or else you’d definitely be seriously injured right now. You might even be dead...” Nameless Nie grumbled grumpily.

Ling Miao had no choice but to nod. “Alright, I’ll apologize to you. I won’t hit you next time. If you still aren’t happy with that, you can also hit me once.”

“Who wants to hit you? I have no interest in hitting you,” Nameless Nie responded.

“Then... what do you want?” Ling Miao asked.

Nameless Nie dusted off his bum and stood up, grasping Ling Miao’s hand again. “Let’s go on the ferris wheel...”

He’d just finished speaking when he lost his balance again and was knocked to the ground by Ling Miao instinctively.

“You... you liar! Didn’t you say... you wouldn’t hit me again?! Why did you hit me again? Is it because you think I can’t beat you?!” Nameless Nie furiously stared at Ling Miao, his eyes wide open.

Ling Miao was quiet for a moment before answering, “It was instinct.”